

Tindemans in Syria to discuss hostages

DAMASCUS (R) — Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans arrived in Damascus Friday for talks about Belgian hostages held in Lebanon and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Tindemans told Reuters at Damascus airport that discussions with his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Shara would also cover bilateral relations and developments in the Middle East. The minister said: "The Middle East in general is one of the main topics of international politics at this moment and bilateral relations between Syria and Belgium is another interesting one... We also have some topics to explain to Syrian authorities..." Asked if he had an initiative to push forward the Middle East peace process, Tindemans said the topic had a particular importance at present, and with Syria's position in the area discussions now were especially important. He said he would also discuss the fate of Belgian hostages held in Lebanon, where Syria is the main foreign power broker. "We thought it would be interesting at this moment to see together what is exactly the situation and what could be done." A Belgian doctor went missing in South Lebanon after visiting a Palestinian refugee camp on May 21 last year. A previously unknown group calling itself "the Soldiers of Truth" claimed responsibility.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily publication Jordanian Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية
الجزيرة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Hungary ready to host peace talks

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary said Friday it was ready to host an international peace conference on the Middle East at the request of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat. The Hungarian News Agency (MTI) said Arafat told Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth he agreed with a Soviet proposal that such a conference should begin in six to nine months. "At the request of Mr. Arafat, the Hungarian government gave the promise that it would organise the international conference," MTI said. Nemeth has said he expects to resume full diplomatic relations with Israel in the first half of this year. Ties were broken over the 1967 six-day war. The prime minister told Arafat, who arrived in Budapest on Thursday, that Hungary had raised its voice in talks with Israel and Jewish organisations for a political settlement in the Middle East. "In this context, Mr. Nemeth noted that Hungary would gladly accept a mediating role and supports... the settlement process of the Middle East situation," MTI said.

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Regent warns of Mideast conflagration

AMMAN (R) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has urged Washington and Moscow to work urgently for peace in the Middle East or see the region plunged into renewed war. "The contradiction between dismantling missiles in Europe and the continued increase in armaments in the Middle East is an extremely worrying and sobering thought," he told Reuters in an interview Wednesday.

He said the spread of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons in the area had raised the stakes for everyone.

"The possibility of regional conflict, inviting superpower involvement, is very likely indeed..."

"It stands to reason that the two superpowers cannot talk about detente in the European or global picture without considering the Middle East," he declared.

He praised Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's ideas for high-level consultations

among U.N. Security Council members to prepare for an international Middle East conference.

Recent diplomatic activity by the PLO, Arab countries and the European Community, as well as Soviet discussions with Israel and Israeli-Palestinian contacts, were helping to create an atmosphere of movement.

"But the crucial issue is that the exchange of peace for territory has to be a clearly defined position on the part of the Israeli government," Prince Hassan said.

He criticised Israel's refusal to offer the people of the West Bank and Gaza anything beyond the 1978 Camp David agreement which called for limited Palestinian autonomy.

"All we are seeing is a pale imitation of the Camp David formula, an invitation to some form of political self-expression under occupation."

"This cannot under any circumstances be regarded as listening to the Palestinian people

themselves, whether those inside the occupied territories or beyond," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has vowed not to allow an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza or to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Prince Hassan said Jordan, by disengaging from the West Bank in July, had intended to show that it recognised the "political integrity of the Palestinians and their right to a state."

"Jordan's role now is to promote and support a Palestinian solution on Palestinian soil. If their wish is to create a Palestinian state, we fully support it and have recognised it."

But it was putting the cart before the horse to ask whether Jordan would form a confederation with a future Palestinian state.

"All I can say is that by definition we are for any step that could further inter-Arab cooperation," he said.

Jordan understood the new U.S. administration's need to study its Middle East policy but urgency was needed.

"When you look clinically at what is happening in the occupied territories, every day wasted is a day in favour of further fanaticism and extremism on all sides," he said.

The Crown Prince condemned Salman Rushdie's novel The Satanic Verses as blasphemous but said that the row about it was unworthy of Islam.

"This gross overemphasis on what is clearly an offensive and blasphemous book only contributes to spreading the notoriety and the blasphemy, and to inviting this ghastly lampoon caricature image of Muslims as intolerant," he told Reuters in an interview.

"Islam is a great religion and greater than considering its vulnerability to being denigrated by another piece of writing," he said.

Massive car bomb kills 12, injures 150 in east Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — A massive car bomb exploded by an east Beirut bakery crowded with shoppers Friday, killing at least 12 and wounding more than 150, hospital sources said.

"It was like an earthquake," said one man who saw the explosion. "Cars and people were flying in the air."

Explosive experts said the car bomb, 50 metres from the British embassy's consular office, contained some 50 kilograms of high explosives.

It ripped through the bakery where many shoppers were queuing as life started returning to normal after ferocious battles erupted Tuesday between Falangist and opposition forces. At least 43 people were killed and 140 wounded in the fighting which eased late Thursday.

"The blood of innocents had not dried up when this mass murder occurred. Civilians whether in east or west are being victimised," Acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, who heads the Syrian-backed civilian cabinet, said in condemnation of the violence.

Witnesses said some of Friday's casualties were children who were among scores of people queuing to buy bread.

Police and witnesses said the blast dismembered some of the victims whose flesh was scattered on the streets. Others were charred and disfigured.

Residents flocked to the site to search for their relatives.

Many fainted as they saw the bakery in flames and flesh and pools of blood covering the ground.

Charred bodies were floating in knee-high water gushing from pipes smashed by the blast.

The blast set ablaze about 30 cars and shattered glass in nearby buildings including the British embassy consular section.

Friday's car bomb — the fifth in Lebanon this year — paralysed life in east Beirut, only hours after residents had started to resume their normal patterns, disrupted by fighting between rival military and civilian governments.

The two administrations have been vying for power since September when parliament failed to elect a new president.

The crisis widened after Major-General Michel Aoun, head of a military cabinet opposed to Hoss's government, imposed a sea blockade on militia-held ports.

Rival Falangist and opposition forces have regularly resorted to car bomb attacks as a tool to exert political pressure.

The latest setback coincided with mediation efforts to curb the escalating conflict between Aoun and opposition forces.

An opposition politician told

Reuters that opposition militias were allowing time for mediation efforts but were ready for a confrontation in case they failed.

The politician said the opposition forces would keep shelling the official harbour to keep it from operating.

"It's either harbours for everyone or no harbours for anyone," he said.

Two shells had earlier slammed into the port in east Beirut.

Official sources close to Aoun said he telephoned Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and they discussed Lebanon's problems. Syrian President Hafez Assad arrived in Libya Thursday.

Prince Hassan visits Shidieh Mines

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday paid a surprise visit to Shidieh Phosphate Mines, 60 kilometres south east of Ma'an.

During the visit, the Regent inspected work at the site and was briefed on the future projects of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, which include joint industrial projects with other countries, so as to produce and export phosphoric acid and other products related to manufacturing phosphate.

Crown Prince Hassan also inspected the site of the proposed residential city for the mine-workers and the various facilities in the area.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday visits the Shidieh Phosphate Mines (Petra photo)

Once work gets completed at the mine, the installations and factories due to be built, will constitute the largest phosphate producing complex in Jordan.

Shidieh region is known to contain a large reserve of phosphate, amounting to several bil-

lions of tonnes. A total of 1.2 billion tonnes of phosphate have so far been found in an area not exceeding 30 square kilometres.

Production is expected to exceed half a million tonnes this year. The factory's production capacity will rise to 3 billion

tonnes in 1992.

The production capacity is expected to increase to six million tonnes in 1996 and 9 million tonnes in the year 2000.

In twenty years time, the production is expected to approach fifteen million tonnes.

Shamir rules out territorial compromise in Mideast peace

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel was headed for a possible collision with the United States over Middle East peace policies Friday as Israeli leaders insisted they would not give up occupied lands or talk to the PLO, and would build more Jewish settlements.

Israel's hardline stance was declared anew in defiance of mounting U.S. pressure on Israel to show greater flexibility at a time when the 15-month Palestinian uprising has attracted great world sympathy.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker suggested this week in Washington that Israel could be forced to speak to the PLO. He told visiting Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens that Israel must stop building Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Washington has long held that in exchange for peace, Israel must withdraw from some of the land it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in an interview published Friday that the peace plan he will take to Washington next month will not include giving up land.

"In everything I will present, there is no territorial element," Shamir told the daily Haaretz. "I don't think any kind of territorial

combination can help in achieving peace or quelling the (Israeli-Arab) conflict."

At the same time, an Israeli defence expert said a Defence Ministry study has concluded that Israel cannot afford to return parts of the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for peace.

Motti Gur, a former chief of staff who headed the study, claimed Israeli security would be compromised if Israel returned the strategic territory it captured in 1967.

In his newspaper interview, Shamir said he would propose a step-by-step solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict when he meets with U.S. President George Bush next month.

"We are talking about stages that can satisfy to a great extent some of the aspirations of the Arabs who live with us, without endangering Israel's security," Shamir said.

Shamir did not elaborate, but in the past he has proposed limited Palestinian autonomy leading to an unspecified final settlement.

Palestinian leaders have rejected the proposal, saying they fear it is an Israeli ruse to block their key demand, the creation of a Palestinian state.

Israel's government, a coalition of Shamir's right-wing Likud Bloc

and the left-leaning Labour Party, opposes a Palestinian state and has ruled out talks with the PLO.

But Arens left open the possibility of compromise after Baker said Israel may have no choice but to talk to the PLO.

Speaking Thursday to Jewish leaders in New York, Arens said Israel would "spare no effort to identify interlocutors amongst the Palestinian population" in the occupied territories.

"And it may very well be that such authentic interlocutors, some of them may end up being sympathisers of the PLO," he said.

Shamir spokesman Yossi Ahimeir played down Arens' statement, saying that Israel's position had not changed.

"We will never talk to people who are affiliated, who are connected with the PLO. Sympathisers is a vague term. There are even many PLO sympathisers among Israelis," Ahimeir told the Associated Press.

Shamir also said in the Haaretz interview that Israel would continue to build Jewish settlements in the occupied lands.

Baker reportedly told Arens during a meeting in Washington earlier this week that Israel should refrain from building further Jewish settlements in the occupied lands.

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5 more Palestinians shot in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Five Palestinians were shot and wounded Friday in clashes with Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The four Palestinians, aged 18 to 25, were shot and wounded in scattered protests, hospital officials said. A 19-year-old Palestinian was shot and wounded in the West Bank village of Yabad, Arab doctors said.

Over 400 Palestinians have been killed since the Palestinian uprising began on Dec. 8, 1987, to demand an end to occupation of West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the southern town of Ketziot, a Palestinian from Gaza City was found dead in his bed Friday and an investigation showed he was killed by fellow inmates, the army command said.

It identified the victim as Mohammed Razi Jamal Dula and said the body was sent for autopsy. No further details were released.

On Thursday, soldiers destroyed three Palestinian homes and sealed two others in retaliation against anti-Israeli activities, and Israeli Arab leaders called Thursday for a general strike to support the Palestinian rebellion in the occupied lands.

The demolitions sparked demonstrations in the Gaza Strip, where Palestinian youths burned tires, raised Palestinian flags and hurled rocks at troops, Arab reports said.

In the West Bank, a 20-year-old Palestinian was shot and wounded in a clash with soldiers in the northern town of Tul-karem, Arab reports said.

A Palestinian shop in Nablus and another in Ramallah were set ablaze by fellow Palestinians after warning that the shops should stop selling Israeli-made goods, police said.

Afghan rebels claim OIC success

RIYADH (R) — Afghan Mujahadeen emerged proclaiming victory for their cause after four days of fierce debate at an Islamic foreign ministers meeting in Riyadh.

Afghan rebels said the ministers, by asking them to fill Afghanistan's vacant Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) seat, granted de facto recognition to their fledgling interim government.

"There is no doubt that the granting of the Afghanistan seat in the OIC is a collective, de facto recognition of the government," the rebel government's foreign minister, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, told a news conference.

The OIC move was also a diplomatic victory for Saudi Arabia, a major backer of the rebels and the first country to grant formal recognition to the interim government. Sudan and Bahrain have since followed its lead.

The Saudis, hosts to the OIC gathering, had consistently pushed for Islamic recognition for the rebel administration.

Afghanistan Friday condemned the OIC decision to seat the rival Mujahadeen government at its meeting in Riyadh.

"It is a useless, shameful act and the Afghan government condemns it," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman of the OIC.

Iran, after intense lobbying, said the OIC's denunciation of British author Salman Rushdie as an apostate was "historic."

The OIC stopped short of endorsing an order by Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, last month for the killing of Rushdie, whose novel, The Satanic Verses, is considered blasphemous by Muslims.

But the chief Iranian delegate, Ali Mohammad Taskhiri, said the outcome of the conference, which ended late Thursday, was excellent.

"The most important resolution is that which proclaims that the Islamic nation rejects the Satanic Verses and considers that its author is an apostate who must be treated according to Islamic Law," Taskhiri, deputy chief of Iran's Islamic Propagation Organisation, told reporters.

The OIC declaration on Rushdie made no mention of Islamic Law and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal told a news conference that sentencing the author was a matter for jurists, not foreign ministers.

But delegates said Iran was satisfied and showed a new spirit of flexibility.

It was the first OIC meeting in three years which Tehran had not either boycotted or quit. Dele-

gates said the meeting could help to smooth Iran's still tense relations with Saudi Arabia, guardian of most of Islam's holiest shrines.

On Afghanistan, the OIC invited "representatives of the Afghan Mujahadeen" to occupy the Afghan seat which has been vacant since shortly after the 1979 Soviet military intervention.

The final communiqué did not specifically grant the seat to the interim government formed after last month's Soviet withdrawal and recognised by only three OIC members — Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

Delegates said this was designed to appease the objections of Iran, which backs eight Afghan guerrilla groups, excluded from the government, and pro-Soviet states, which want the Communist Party ruling in Kabul to be included as well.

U.K. welcomes OIC stand on Rushdie

In London, Britain Friday welcomed as a sign of moderation the OIC refusal to back Iranian death threats against Rushdie.

"We see that the moderate majority in the Islamic World is prevailing," a foreign office spokesman said.

Qasem returns from OIC conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem returned after taking part in an Islamic foreign ministers conference held in Riyadh in the past week.

In a statement upon returning home, the minister said that the conference opened the way for various Islamic countries to discuss a host of important issues. The Jordanian delegation participated in all discussions and in the drafting of resolutions.

"The meeting in Riyadh endorsed the Arab nation's current moves to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and find a just and durable solution for the Palestine problem," Qasem said.

Qasem delivered Jordan's address to the conference in which he outlined the Kingdom's firm stand with regard to Arab and Islamic issues and held meetings with Arab and Islamic foreign ministers taking part in the meeting.

Jordan exerting strenuous efforts for peace — Talhouni

BUDAPEST (Petra) — Jordan said Friday it is exerting strenuous efforts at all levels for the sake of achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East region and ensuring the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Jordan's chief delegate to an International Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting here, Mr. Bahjat Talhouni, said that Jordan is determined to enlist the assistance of all countries to convene an international conference to pave the way for the aspired peace.

In his address, Talhouni said the Middle East problem is still at the top of world issues despite the lapse of more than 40 years of the Arab-Israeli conflict and despite the efforts of international organisations and parliaments to find a just solution for the Palestinian question.

No solution has been found to the Palestinian problem and their usurped lands over the past four decades "largely due to Israel's intransigence and rejection of United Nations resolutions," Talhouni noted.

He said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has lately recognised Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and renounced all forms of terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist, thus paving the way for a permanent peace in the region.

But he added Israel is still adamant and continues to refuse all bids for peace.

Talhouni referred to Jordan's role in backing the PLO and its endeavours to attain a lasting peace. He said that Jordan's decision to sever ties with the West Bank and its continued efforts to back the PLO's moves are clearly

designed to enhance the Palestinian identity.

"Jordan, which has lived the long years of the Middle East conflict, will continue to strive towards the achievement of a permanent and just peace," Talhouni stressed.

The idea of an international conference has been supported by Asian, African and European countries which seek to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions and see peace established in the Middle East. But, he said, international efforts "are being hampered by Israel's negative and aggressive attitude."

In his address Talhouni referred to the Lebanese question and the efforts of the Arab League to find a settlement. He also referred to the situation in Afghanistan, Kampuchea and Namibia and said that world parliamentarians can contribute towards solutions for these problems in the light of



Bahjat Talhouni

the East-West detente.

Later Friday, Talhouni met with the IPU president who paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

He said a special parliamentary committee formed by the IPU is continuing its endeavours to help establish peace in the Middle East.

Cheney confirmed as defence secretary

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate Friday unanimously confirmed congressman Dick Cheney as U.S. defence secretary, eight days after rejecting John Tower, President Bush's choice to head the Pentagon.

In a vote of bipartisan goodwill after the bitter party-line battle over Tower, senators approved the popular Republican legislator to preside over major cuts in U.S. military spending next year.

The White House said earlier that Cheney, 48, probably would be sworn in next week as the 14th

and last government agency chief to take a seat in the Bush cabinet.

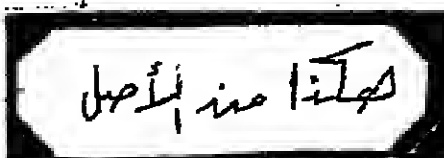
His nomination was rushed through the Senate after Tower was rejected by a 53-47 vote on March 9 amid allegations the former Texas senator was a heavy drinker and womaniser and was too cozy with U.S. defence firms.

Cheney, a conservative who once served as White House chief of staff under former President Gerald Ford, was nominated by Bush the day after Tower was beaten. He is respected in Congress as a relaxed, efficient, pragmatic and very articulate administrator.

Eagleburger confirmed

The Senate Friday also confirmed veteran diplomat Lawrence Eagleburger as deputy secretary of state.

The action came a day after Eagleburger told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee he would disqualify himself from any matter involving any of his former foreign clients at a New York consulting firm headed by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.



Riyadh, Tehran may resume ties

DUBAI (R) — Iran and Saudi Arabia may resume diplomatic relations within the next three weeks as a result of Pakistani mediation, Iranian sources said Thursday.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Suhazada Yaqub Khan agreed to act as a go-between during a visit to Iran before this week's Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting in Riyadh, sources said.

The sources, who are close to members of the Iranian parliament, said relations could be restored before the month of Ramadan starts in three weeks time.

The two countries have been at odds since July, 1987, when an Iranian-inspired political protest in the Holy City of Mecca sparked riots in which more than 400 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, were killed.

Diplomats said a resumption of relations would be an important move in complex manoeuvres involving championing of Islam and a rebel Afghan government, which Riyadh has recognised but Iran has not.

"This could be a great advantage for Pakistan," an Asian diplomat said.

Pakistan, which has long backed the Mujahideen against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, would be helped if Iran, which is predominantly Shi'ite Muslim, recognised the Sunni Muslim Afghan rebel government, he said.

One Iranian source, referring to Iran's revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and parliamentary speaker Hojatollah Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, said: "Khomeini and Rafsanjani have already agreed to the idea of restoring relations."

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has also indicated a desire for better relations with Iran.

The Tehran Times said Tuesday that Iran should recognise the rebel government in Afghanistan to limit Saudi influence.

A resumption of Iranian-Saudi ties could also help to resolve a dispute over how many Iranians would be allowed to Mecca for this year's haj (pilgrimage) in July, the Iranian sources said.

Anderson remains in captivity after 4 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — As journalist Terry Anderson began his fifth year as a hostage in Lebanon, the U.S. government called his detention a "criminal act" and relatives and colleagues around the world demanded his release.

"Enough is enough," Peggy Say, Anderson's sister, said Thursday at a ceremony attended by members of Congress. Anderson's colleagues and relatives of the hostages.

"Our hearts cry out in protest" over Anderson's plight, said Louis D. Boccardi, president of the AP-Anderson's employer.

"It's time for those holding Terry Anderson to release him and to end the unconscionable suffering of an innocent man. Each of us in our own special way should mark this day with contemplation and prayer for Terry's release," Boccardi said in a statement.

President George Bush, through his spokesman expressed sympathy for Anderson's family and for those of the eight other American hostages held in Lebanon as State Department officials said they "have not forgotten the hostages."

"The president certainly is concerned about the hostages," said presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater. "He is aware of Terry Anderson's captivity being four years now."

Anderson, 41, is the longest held of the hostages believed held by pro-Iranian groups.

"We continue to hold the kidnappers responsible for the safety and well-being of the hostages," said State Department spokesman Charles Redman. "Their continued detention is a criminal act which serves no cause."



Kabul government troops being deployed around the Afghan capital since the latest emergency measures taken in response to the Mujahideen onslaught.

Casualties high in the battle for Jalalabad

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghan rebels reported Friday that more than 100 people may have died in extensive bombing by government troops aimed at repelling a Mujahideen offensive on Afghanistan's eastern city of Jalalabad.

Government aircraft pounded Muslim rebel positions Thursday night in suburbs to the north, west and south of the strategic city, inflicting heavy casualties, according to radio reports from two Mujahideen groups based in neighbouring Pakistan.

Dead and wounded included civilians and combatants from both sides, said Qurban Rehman Saeed, who monitored the reports for the Afghan News Agency, an organ of hardline

rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

"They were bombing so heavy they don't care about their own soldiers," he said of the Kabul's pilots.

He said the figure of 100 dead came from a single report.

Hundreds of Afghans are believed to have died since March 6 when the Mujahideen or "holy warriors" launched their first offensive against Kabul government troops following the withdrawal of Soviet forces last month.

The pullout of troops ended nine years of Soviet military presence in Afghanistan.

The fall of Jalalabad, the country's third-largest city about 130 kilometres east of the capital of Kabul, would be a major blow to Kabul's government who insist their forces are strong.

Observers also believe a Mujahideen victory in Jalalabad, along the main highway from Pakistan to Kabul, would propel the rebels in their quest for control of other cities and Kabul.

Ancient girl could unravel Egyptian secrets

GIZA (R) — Egyptian archaeologists said they have found the 4,600-year-old skull of a pretty, young noble girl who could unlock secrets of how bodies of the ancient pharaohs were preserved for the afterlife.

All Hassan, head of the state archaeological department, said Friday that colleagues found a mummified body Thursday while searching a plateau just to the west of the Giza Cheops Pyramids.

The girl's remains appeared to represent the first attempt at

mummification, he said.

"Look at this face. It is clear it belonged to a pretty young girl and most probably of noble blood," Hassan said as the ancient skull was brought out to be photographed.

He said the cemetery belonged to the old Kingdom of Ankh Ptah who ruled some 4,600 years ago.

"The mummy we found is unique. The skull has a gypsum mask, a technique not previously known about old Egyptians," Hassan told Reuters.

Preliminary inspection

showed the skull belonged to a pretty young girl with a four-layer turquoise necklace and a gold-plated bronze crown," he said.

The girl's body disintegrated immediately after it was removed from the grave. "It turned to powder. But we managed to keep the skull in good shape," Hassan said.

The discovery might help Egyptologists to unravel the mystery of early mummification in Egypt.

"We don't know enough about the mummification secrets. This may give us a clue or lead us to

significant information about the little-known history of the old kingdom," the official said.

The 1.5-metre mummy was found inside a shaft 1.7 metres deep, west of Cheops Pyramids, archaeologist Amal Samuel said.

"We also found a total of 14 teeth all in good condition near the skull, an indication they were removed before burial," she said, adding that excavation would continue.

"We are optimistic that we will find something else related to the same discovery," she added.

Urban stress creeps up on easy going Egyptians

By John Rogers

Reuter

CAIRO — The young businessman wept in frustration as he ran up a Cairo street kicking at a ramshackle car slowly rattling away.

He was one more victim of urban stress in this ancient city of mosques, minarets and 15 million people, where modern life — and especially the automobile — has put increasing strain on a relaxed, traditional society.

In the case of the young businessman, his anguish was caused by the old car stopping so suddenly in heavy traffic that his vehicle had smashed into its rear.

His reaction was one example of a problem that some experts reckon is serious. Others believe the easy-going attitudes of Egyptians will see them through anything, though few deny there is a problem.

"I've noticed a terrific change over 10 years in the Egyptian character," said Carol Ann Clouston, a Canadian teacher of singing and relaxation therapy.

"I notice changes in the faces in the street. They're starting to pull in. People are starting to hug themselves. Maybe it's an effect of feeling

crowded — wanting to protect yourself against all that noise." An endless stream of traffic on the big squares, overpasses, tangled streets and alleys of the largest city in Africa and the Middle East is to blame.

And there's not much room on the pavements. More than 25 per cent of Egypt's fast-growing population, currently 52 million, lives in the capital.

Cairenes' enthusiastic use of the car horn, day and night, punctuates a constant buzz of noise from traffic, construction, roadworks, radios and a million voices.

Navigating Cairo is a nerve-racking art. From Mercedes limousines to donkey carts, hardly a vehicle is without dents.

Traffic rules go largely ignored in the race to be first — or at least ahead of the car in front. Red "stop" lights carry authority only when a policeman is there — and then not always.

Cavalier attitudes to traffic rules, says psychiatrist Yehia Rakhawi, are part of a carefree attitude to life which helps Egyptians through the strains of a working day.

"Loose application of the law permits everyone to do what he wants," he said. "Everyone knows no one respects the law. So everyone is

the law himself." Rakhawi says Cairenes are better able to cope with stress than people in the villages, where everyone knows everyone else, life can be stultifying and there are few outlets for emotion.

"Cairo is different — you can be free," he said. "No one knows you. More services are available, more entertainment."

Hundreds of pavement coffee houses, where men gossip, smoke hubbly-bubble pipes and play backgammon or checkers, provide havens of peace amid the fumes, hubbub and heat.

"Cafe gatherings are a sort of group therapy, as in southern Italy or France," Rakhawi said.

Another psychiatrist, Mubammad Shaalan, says the departure of millions of Egyptians to work in Gulf states in the 1970s ended cooperation as a basic value of society and made Cairo unstable.

"I see fathers killing sons, wives killing fathers, even mothers killing children. That means something has changed in Egyptian society," Shaalan said.

"Islamic civilisation has become petro-dollarised, individualised, privatised." Old family patterns broke down, women and children



Both cars and donkey carts bustle along Cairo's busy streets

learned to manage without their husbands or fathers. Yet they resented their absence.

"I'm finding kids saying: I love my father but I want him to die," Shaalan said. "When I see one case it means there are dozens of others who don't complain. When I see two or three in a week, it means there's something happening, a wave."

But Egypt has many safety valves, including the mosque, a propensity to laugh, narcotics — a growing problem — and

traditional festivals with wild dancing. Then there are modern escape routes like football and television.

An official report two years ago said the average Egyptian worked 26 minutes a day — a figure reflecting unemployment, underemployment and a bloated bureaucracy.

A government minister said last December the productivity of Egyptian workers was one-third of those in northern Mediterranean countries, one-eighth of northern Europeans.

one-ninth of Japanese workers' and one-tenth of Americans'.

Clouston says foreign businessmen might avoid stress if they slowed down a bit, and Egyptians might cope better if they ignored Western work practices.

"Foreigners are going mad trying to deal with the Egyptian attitude towards work," she said. "They're freaking out. It's seen as something they have to overcome."

"I say to Egyptians: Why do you want to adopt our values?"

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15:30 Kurun
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15:45 Children programme
17:00 Educational programme
17:30 The Friends
18:00 News summary
18:05 Message from Iraq
18:15 A play by Shakespeare
19:00 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:05 Local programme
22:00 Arabic play
22:30 News in Arabic
23:10 Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Cinéma: A la Redoute du Monde
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Natural phenomena
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Just the Ten of us
21:00 Alfred Hitchcock
21:30 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film, "One Cannot Be Lucky Everytime"

PRAYER TIMES

04:22 Fajr

05:39 (Sunrise) Doha

11:44 Dhufur

15:09 "Aar"

17:49 Maghrib

19:06 "Isha"

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaleh, Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrazana Church Tel. 622306

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822005

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 813171, 821254

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Another rise in temperature will

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

recur and it will be generally fair. Winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Amman Min. max. temp. 11: 25
Aqaba 11: 25
Dahab 11: 25
Jordan Valley 9: 24

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 14, Aqaba 22, Humidity readings: Amman 54 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mohammad Al Ajam 894064

Dr. Jamil Marash 770149

Dr. Ibrahim Al-Jawhri 675490

Dr. Muthair Al-Obeidi 776258

Al-Nasra pharmacy 661912

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 678336

Al-Nasra pharmacy 678336

Natasha pharmacy 626072

Al-Salam pharmacy 626072

Yacoub pharmacy 649415

Shmaram pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Nabil Abu Al-Ola 1-1

Al-Shura pharmacy 19852381

ZARQA:

Dr. Rahab Al-Bawani 1-1

Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 640444

Rescue Police 102, 821111, 637777

Fire Brigade 102, 821111, 637777

Red Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 65839191

Public Security Department 65839191

Hotel Complaints 65839191

Price Complaints 65839191

Water and Sewerage 65839191

Overseas Calls

Central Amman Telephone

Repair 623101

Al-Jalal Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 661101

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 18-53201

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 18-53201

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 8181332

Khalil Maternity, J. Amn 844281

Al-Jalal Maternity, J. Amn 844281

Jahat Amman Maternity 662362

Mallat, J. Amman 661410

Palatine, Shmaram 661410

Palatine, Shmaram 661410

Shmaram Hospital 661410

University Hospital 848045

Al-Mustashir Hospital 667279

The Islamic, Abdull 6612737

Al-Ah, Abdull 661410

Al-Ah, Abdull 661410

Italian, Al-Muhayyir 771105

Al-Sheikh, J. Abdallah 771105

Army, Marka 8916115

Queen Alia Hospital 0224050

Apoll Hospital 674155

MARKET PRICES

Upper lower price in fih per kg

Apple 300 / 400

Banana 340 / 380

Banana (Mekamari) 300 / 350

Broad bean 180 / 190

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Envoys warn Canada on PLO status

OTTAWA (Agencies) — Canadian diplomats at the United Nations have warned Ottawa that failure to upgrade relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) could lead to embarrassment at the world body. Canada becomes president of the U.N. Security Council in the fall, and if the PLO comes before the council chaired by Canadian Ambassador Yves Fortier, the diplomatic ramifications could be severe. Canadian policy is that those at the level of Fortier are prohibited from dealing with the PLO. "There is a definite potential for conflict," said Graham Green, Fortier's spokesman in New York. Canada's stand on upgrading relations with the PLO, restated by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in London recently, will place Fortier in a position requiring "fancy stickhandling," says William Barton, a former Canadian U.N. ambassador. "It's a point in time we have definitely got our eyes fixed on," Green said. "Since we have gained the seat, we have looked at it as a date when there is potential conflict between our Security Council role and the Canadian position."

Belgium bans public reading of Rushdie

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium's Interior Ministry has banned a public reading from Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses" in a Brussels suburb with a large Muslim population. Interior Minister Louis Tobback told Belgian Radio he considered the event "a provocation which could prompt an explosion in a community where... the Islamic and Muslim element is strongly represented." Following Tobback's intervention, local authorities in Brussels' St. Gilles district, home of thousands of North African immigrants, withdrew their initial approval of the event planned for Sunday. Several Belgian authors had pledged to take part in the reading from the French translation of "The Satanic Verses."

Kilbi faces no challenge for 3rd term

TUNIS (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Kilbi is assured a third five-year mandate after league member states failed to put forward other candidates, Arab diplomats said Friday. Tunisia, Kilbi's country of nationality, nominated Kilbi for a third term last Monday and so far the league has not received any other nominations, an Arab League spokesman said. The Arab League Council of Foreign Ministers will vote on the new mandate March 27 at the start of the council's ordinary twice-yearly session in Tunis. "Even if another candidate appeared at the last minute, Kilbi has enough support locally, in North Africa and among key Arab countries," one Arab ambassador told Reuters.

Doves target of Israeli terrorists

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A shadowy extreme-rightist group using a Latin name is stalking prominent Israelis who support dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), police said Friday. The Sicarii, who take their name from Jewish zealots who murdered collaborators with the Romans in ancient times, claimed responsibility for an arson attack Thursday on the home of broadcaster Dan Margalit. They also tried to burn the home of a relative of leftist parliamentarian Yair Tsaban in the same building. In a telephone call to an Israeli newspaper, a man claiming to speak for the group said: "We blew up the apartments of Dan Margalit and Yair Tsaban — may they be wiped off the face of the earth — because Margalit invited Faisal Husseini to appear on TV and because Tsaban met with the PLO abroad." The attacks caused slight damage and no injuries. They were the latest in a spate of arson attacks and threats against leading Israeli doves.

Prince Charles misses polo match

D

Physicians meet

AMMAN (J.T.) — Doctors and specialists from Jordan and the Medical Society of Arab Americans opened a three-day meeting here Thursday to discuss heart transplant, diagnostic techniques and first aid issues along with Arab and Muslim contributions to medicine throughout the ages.

Addressing the opening session was Dr. Daoud Hanania, director general of the National Medical Institution (NMI), who outlined Jordan's endeavours to develop medical care and health services over the past three decades. Hanania outlined the major achievements in these fields since

the establishment of the Health Ministry and its services in Jordan in 1956.

He also dwelt on the various health plans carried out in Jordan and the creation of the NMI and the primary health care services in the Kingdom.

The meeting which is being held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor has been organised in cooperation with NMI and the University of Jordan.

Physicians and specialists from Jordan and Arab American doctors are taking part in the meeting.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree issued Thursday approved of an agreement between Jordan and North Yemen to establish a joint higher committee. Agreement on the formation of this committee which will supervise future joint activities was reached during a North Yemeni delegation's visit to Amman in January 1989 (Petra).

ENDORSEMENT: The Council of Ministers has endorsed a preliminary agreement reached with Iraq, Egypt, Syria and Turkey for interconnection of power grids. The council also endorsed an agreement signed by the Natural Resources Authority and an Austrian oil prospecting firm to carry out oil exploration at Wadi Sarhan in southern Jordan (Petra).

MALHAS IN LIBYA: Health Minister Zuhair Malhas has arrived in Libya to take part in an Arab Health Ministers Council, a week-long meeting. Delegates are expected to discuss a statute for the newly formed Arab Anti-Smoking Federation which will hold its first meeting in Amman in September 1989 (Petra).

VETS MEET: The Jordanian Veterinary Association (JVA) will take part in a pan-Arab veterinarians meeting starting in Cairo Saturday. The week-long meeting will tackle subjects related to the provision of animal protein, protection livestock wealth and investments as well as matters related to food security. JVA President Ahmad Ajlouni who represents Jordan at the meeting will present a working paper featuring veterinary services in the Kingdom (Petra).

TOURISM: A seminar on tourism in the Kingdom will be held in Amman Saturday under the patronage of Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid. The seminar to be held at Amra Hotel will be addressed by the Ministry of Tourism's secretary general, the Swedish ambassador in Amman and a representative of Royal Jordanian (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Egyptian artist 'Adli Rizkallah at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Ismail displaying paintings on Magamat Al Hariri and Jordanian landscapes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Intercontinental — 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition of posters on the French Revolution at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalous at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ An Iraqi children's books and paintings exhibition at Salt Secondary School for Girls.
- ★ An art exhibition by Moroccan artist Al Hashemi Izza at the Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh — 5:00 p.m.

LECTURES

- ★ A lecture entitled "Settlement Archaeology of the Inner Town in Petra" by John P. Zeidler, member of the Society of Natural History in Nurnberg, at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ A lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Adam and Eve and the Myths of the Sin in the Islamic Arabic Literature" by Dr. Wiebke Walther at the University of Jordan — 12 noon.

SEMINAR

- ★ A seminar on "Children's Theatre" at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

FILM

- ★ An Italian film entitled "A Rhinoceros on the 2nd Piano" at Haya Arts Centre — 7:30 p.m.



(From left to right) Ms. Georgette Hosh, sales coordinator and Mr. Geoffrey Rhodes, Manager, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon of British Airways awarding the BA partnership plaque to Mr. Frank Keenan, GM and Mr. Jan Hoeschele, Director of Sales and Marketing, Amman Marriott Hotel.

Marriott, British Airways announce agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following the corporate agreements between the Marriott Hotel Chain in the USA (one of America's largest groups) and British Airways where Marriott is now the official "Hotel Partner" for British Airways in USA, the Amman Marriott Hotel is now the official Partner Hotel for BA in Jordan.

"Our policy... should result in British Airways having partnerships with the cream of the world's hotels, thus enabling us to use their image and products to further our own marketing objectives" said Mr. Gordon Stewart, British Airways Partnership Marketing Manager in announcing the new partnership agreements.

"We are extremely proud to have joined the partnership as a BA associate hotel."

"Of course, this will in no way hinder us from enjoying our traditional relationships with other airlines but simply emphasises our long and successful association with British Airways and our U.S. corporate agreement," said Mr. Frank Keenan, General Manager of the Amman Marriott Hotel.

Proper incentives needed to develop Jordan tourism

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's "massive" potential for tourism could be developed to its maximum if proper incentives are made available to the private sector and if a "comprehensive view" is adopted by the Kingdom's tourism development bodies, Tunisian Minister of Tourism Mohammad Jugham said Thursday.

Speaking at a press conference marking the end of a several-day visit, during which he discussed with Jordanian officials means of promoting tourism between the two countries, Jugham said tourism promotion did not only entail marketing a country abroad but required additional investment in the country.

"Promoting tourism to a certain country does not only involve making foreigners familiar with the country's name and telling them it exists," he said. "Marketing a country has to be accompanied by a process of investment."

Tunisia, which last year attracted 3.4 million tourists who brought into the country \$1.300 million in hard currency, achieved its record number by relying heavily on the private sector, supervised by the state, Jugham said.

Among other factors which helped drew such a large number

of tourists to this Mediterranean country was the special legislation providing both Tunisian and foreign investors with proper incentives and privileges such as customs exemptions and loans assistance, the minister said.

Jugham noted that a special real estate body was set to prepare pieces of land for touristic projects, lands which are in turn sold to investors at reasonable prices for building hotels and other touristic facilities.

Apart from training 700 students annually at special institutes for tourism, the Tunisian tourism authorities spend \$12 million annually for advertising and promoting the country abroad. The tourism sector makes up six per cent of Tunisia's gross national product, Jugham said.

According to the minister, the tourism sector benefited most from the change at the top leadership level in Tunisia more than 15 months ago — a change which saw "a move towards greater democracy and freedom." Tunisians now have great hopes in the tourism sector and look to it as an important catalyst for economic growth, he said, adding that tourists visiting Tunisia have almost doubled from 1.8 million in 1977 to 3.4 million in 1988.

Tunisian tourism authorities intend to increase the country's

hosting capacity to 200,000 beds by the year 2000. "This required a lot... and we cannot do it by relying on our local capabilities and resources and that is the reason we look to Arab investors," he said.

The minister noted that a specialised Tunisian bank which cooperates with Arab and inter-Arab banks on investment in tourism development was one of the strong points which Tunisians relied on for tourism development.

Other points of strength which Jugham mentioned include cooperation with investors and hotel owners as well as coordination with tourism journalists in the country.

Jordan, Jugham said, could and should make use of its own points of strength, such as Royal Jordanian's extensive connections linking the Kingdom with a large number of destinations across the world.

The Tunisian minister noted that "good opportunities" existed for bilateral cooperation in marketing both Jordan and Tunisia across the world. He said the U.S., Canadian and Japanese markets had not been entered by the Tunisians yet, citing those as areas where Jordan and Tunisia could cooperate especially in view of RJ's route network (see story below).

Tourism agreement reached

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Tunisia have concluded extensive talks here on means of promoting cooperation in tourism, and the ministers of tourism in the two countries Yassir Hikat of Jordan and Mohammad Jugham of Tunisia signed minutes of their talks at a ceremony in Amman Thursday shortly before the Tunisian minister left for home.

The two sides agreed on launching joint campaigns to market their tourist attractions abroad,

especially in the United States, Canada and Japan with the help of their respective national airlines and tour operators in the two countries.

They agreed to invite tour operators in the two countries to orient them on tourism facilities in Tunisia and Jordan and seek their assistance in marketing operations. They also agreed to organise tourist exhibitions in the two countries soon.

The Jordanian side expressed desire to benefit from Tunisia's expertise in traditional industries and Tunisia said it will provide expertise and training for Jordanian personnel, especially in weaving woolen carpets and mats. Tunisia also agreed to provide Jordan with desert tourism expertise and help the Kingdom in drawing up studies and carrying out plans for the development of Jordanian desert tourism.

Campaigns for marketing Jordanian products intensify

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry has announced that it is holding contacts with chambers of industry and trade in India to arrange for an Indian-Jordanian investment seminar to be held in Amman soon.

Chamber officials said that the coming seminar will discuss prospects for joint ventures, means of cementing bilateral cooperation in economic and trade affairs and increasing Jordan's phosphate, potash and fertiliser exports to India.

On the other hand the General Federation of Jordanian Chambers executive board held a meeting Thursday to discuss means of promoting Jordan's exports.

The meeting held under the chairmanship of Mohammad Asfour reviewed specific measures designed to promote trade and economic links between Jordan on the one hand and Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen on the other in implementation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) agreement signed in Baghdad on Feb. 16, according to a federation spokesman.

The spokesman said that the federation board has decided to dispatch delegations to Finland, Libya and Switzerland to discuss

with their governments trade issues and to try to open new markets in these countries.

The board called for the creation of a federation of chambers of industry and trade in the four ACC countries in messages sent to the heads of these federations in Iraq, North Yemen and Egypt, according to the spokesman.

He said that the board has laid stress to the importance of such federation which can overcome obstacles impeding the flow of capital and the implementation of projects.

In Cairo the economic attaché at the Jordanian embassy took part in a seminar on ACC trade and economic cooperation. Mohammad Alawneh addressed the seminar referring to the vast potential of the four ACC countries and expressing hope that concerned authorities will embark on immediate steps to promote trade and economic links.

Jordan-Morocco joint committee meets

The joint Moroccan-Jordanian economic committee is due to convene here on March 24 to discuss economic issues and the prospect of increasing the volume

of exchanged trade. The four-day meeting is expected to dwell on certain obstacles that are impeding the exchange of goods and the transfer of capital between the two countries and will look into the prospect of organising a Jordanian industrial fair in Morocco and a Moroccan fair in Amman.

The Jordanian side to the talks in Amman will be led by Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tahbas and the Moroccan side by Minister of Trade and Industry Abdullah Al Iryani.

Jordan-Finland too

According to an announcement by the Ministry of Industry and Trade Thursday, the Jordanian-Finnish joint economic committee is due to meet in Helsinki on April 2 at the level of under secretaries of the ministries of trade.

The announcement said that the meeting will focus on means of increasing Jordanian exports of national products to Finland so as to adjust a balance of trade which is now in favour of Finland. It said also that the delegation will discuss exporting Jordanian phosphates, fertilisers and potash to Finland.

Jordan, Syria to coordinate supply matters

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Minister of Supply Faysel Tarawneh who is on a visit to Syria met Thursday with Prime Minister Mahmoud Zou'bi to discuss Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in supply affairs and to brief him on the outcome of his talks with his Syrian counterpart Hassan Al Saqa.

Tarawneh conveyed to Zou'bi greetings from Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and reviewed economic and trade links between Jordan and Syria.

Tarawneh and Saqa Thursday visited the town of Quneitra where they inspected a number of installations set up by the Syrian ministry of supply.

He and Saqa held extensive talks on promoting bilateral

cooperation in supply-related fields and developing an exchange of trade in food supplies between the two countries. Both ministers made statements in which they stressed their countries' determination to move ahead with plans to bolster bilateral trade.

During the conference, it added, there will be a seminar during which several working papers will be discussed covering numbering of streets, postal services in Islamic cities, and reorganisation issues.

Also during the conference, the ICO will organise an exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre displaying samples of architectural designs in a number of Islamic cities.

The Greater Municipality of Amman said it will also hold an exhibition in cooperation with local companies to display computers and electronic equipment used in designing buildings. The exhibition will be held at the King Abdullah Complex.

ICO meets today

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The fifth Islamic Cities Organisation (ICO) meeting opens in Amman Saturday under royal patronage and with the participation of delegates from various cities in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

The three-day meeting will review the organisation's activities over the past two years and will endorse its budget for the coming two years, according to an announcement here Friday.

The announcement said that the participants will endorse amendments to the organisation's statutes which will open the way for eight instead of four cities from each member states to join the organisation's membership. The delegates will also decide on the next general conference's date and venue, the announce-

ment said.

During the conference, it added, there will be a seminar during which several working papers will be discussed covering numbering of streets, postal services in Islamic cities, and reorganisation issues.

Also during the conference, the ICO will organise an exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre displaying samples of architectural designs in a number of Islamic cities.

The Greater Municipality of Amman said it will also hold an exhibition in cooperation with local companies to display computers and electronic equipment used in designing buildings. The exhibition will be held at the King Abdullah Complex.



Prince Hassan in Aqaba Thursday listens to a briefing on the new fertiliser plant (Photo by Youssef Allani)

Regent calls for modernising judicial system

Prince Hassan opens 2 factories in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent has called on the judiciary authorities in the Kingdom to take steps that would enable courts cope with socio-economic development and its related issues when settling law suits referred to them at all times.

Addressing a ceremony for the inauguration of the Aqaba court of justice complex, Prince Hassan also urged concerned authorities and the Ministry of Justice to initiate measures for modernising courts and court procedures to deal with such issues and to enact new legislations and laws in this respect.

He also called for closer cooperation between the Ministry of Justice, the Judicial Institute and the Bar Association in the Kingdom which should maintain an open dialogue to promote the profession and its practice in the country. Prince Hassan announced that the newly established Judicial Institute will soon commence its operations to recruit and provide lawyers and judges with proper qualifications.

The Aqaba court of justice, which cost JD 250,000 is a complex that embodies first instance and peace courts, a court for criminal trials, a library, a general prosecutor's office and other essential services and facilities.

Later Prince Hassan inaugurated a liquid fertiliser plant and rice handling facilities at the port of Aqaba. The ceremony was attended by senior government and private sector leaders. The liquid fertiliser plant was set up by the Jordan-Kuwait Company for Agriculture and Food Products.

Joint venture

The rice handling operation is the first such venture in Jordan, and the liquid fertiliser plant is the first of its kind in the Middle East. Both facilities are expected to market their products in Jordan and to other countries in the area as well. Both are enterprises that respond to consumer demand, increase employment opportunities, increase foreign investment and export opportunities, and contribute to the growth of the thriving port of Aqaba.

The product will be packaged at two locations: in Aqaba and in the Jordan Valley. Widespread reliance on irrigation and drip irrigation in the area has created a demand for agricultural chemicals in this form. USAID's Commodity Import Programme assisted the Jordan-Kuwait Company for Agriculture and Food Products in the purchase of equipment from Spencer-Harris of Arkansas, Inc.

Feasibility studies for the liquid

fertiliser plant were financed under USAID's PETRA project which provides loans and grants to entrepreneurs who have viable business ideas to develop. To date the PETRA project has assisted the development of a number of businesses. The products these businesses produce in Jordan will offer Jordanian consumers an opportunity to buy locally produced goods, shoe polish and mosquito mats for example, instead of imported goods. A number of the goods will find export markets as well. The businesses that PETRA has supported have created 110 new full time jobs and trained some 151 employees. PETRA assistance helped the Exporters' Council and the National Handicrafts Centre come into being.

Eradicating illiteracy

AMMAN (Petra) — A week long sub regional symposium on the eradication of illiteracy in the Arab World opens here Saturday with the participation of delegates from Jordan and eight Arab countries in addition to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) which is organising the meeting in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

The delegates are expected to examine and analyse matters related to the role and activities of authorities operating literacy centres, the use of modern technological facilities in these operations and new trends in spreading education at the national, regional and international levels.

according to a UNESCO official here.

The official said that the delegates will delve into the concept of adult education and the eradication of illiteracy, offer new ideas to be incorporated in the UNESCO programme to achieve this objective and exchange ideas and expertise in education.

The official noted that UNESCO has made arrangements for a series of lectures, seminars and workshops to be held during the week long meetings.

The symposium which is being held under the title of International Education, is part of UNESCO's current programme in the Arab World to eradicate illiteracy, the official added.



JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY COMPANY LTD. AMMAN - JORDAN

Tenders Invitation For Prequalification And Bidding

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd announces tender invitation No. 4/89 for the Energy Conservation Project which shall include building of CO Boiler in F.C.C. Unit, Air Preheater in Crude Distillation Unit III, Waste Heat Boiler in Platformer Unit and accompanying facilities including all civil, mechanical & electrical works related to these new installations.

Contractors who possess experience in the same field and are qualified financially and technically and who wish to participate in the above tender are invited to submit their prequalification documents not later than 12.00 p.m. on April 1, 1989.

Prequalification documents should include the following:

1. Financial capability of the contractor. Financial references are to be provided.
2. Technical capability of the contractor including details of experience & background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.
3. Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor, full names and addresses of firms and details of projects including contract cost, and completion periods.

Results of prequalification shall be announced and advised to participants as soon as they become available.

Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from the company's head office at First Circle - Jabal Amman against JD 100 per set not later than April 10, 1989.

Offers should be submitted by qualified contractors to the company's head office not later than 12.00 p.m. Saturday on June 3, 1989.

CHAIRMAN

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

The rights of fetuses too

THE International Convention on the Rights of Children, which has been in the making since 1979, is due to be formally adopted this fall by the U.N. General Assembly. The impetus for this convention was the International Declaration on the Rights of Children adopted by the U.N. General Assembly back in 1959, not to mention the U.N. Charter and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other international instruments on human rights.

As commendable as the work that has already been done to afford the children of the world more specific and binding protections, there is something that is crucially amiss in the draft Convention on the Rights of Children, i.e., the rights of a fetus. Since life starts actually at conception one would have thought that the scope of the Convention on the Rights of Children could have been extended to reach out for fetuses as well. After all the rationale behind the articulation and adoption of a specific international human rights instrument to deal with the specific problems and issues associated with children is that they are defenceless. As fetuses are also silent forms of human life it would make sense to afford them protection as well.

It is unfortunate that the subject of fetuses is linked solely to the controversial subject of abortion. In fact the rights of fetuses should be dealt with as an issue more directly related to the right to life per se. Moreover, it must be conceded in this context that when it comes to protecting fetuses, there is more involved than the rights of the mother. Societies worldwide often ignore completely the rights of the father in conjunction with the rights of the mother. Obviously the right of the fetus to life is an overriding factor and must be afforded top priority independently of the rights of both parents.

This is not to suggest that there are no occasions whatsoever when the life of a fetus may be terminated. Surely there are situations and cases, albeit very limited, when abortion can be legalised. Still, fetuses as independent forms of life warrant specific domestic and international legislation to regulate it and protect it from abuse. It would be ridiculous, for example, to grant a baby protection one second after its birth and deny it equal rights and protection even one minute or even a second before birth. And whatever the honest differences of opinion on this subject, this issue of the rights of fetuses needs and deserves some international guidance in the form of a convention incorporated into the current Convention on the Rights of Children or linked into it.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

IN its editorial Friday Al Ra'i newspaper commented on the situation in Lebanon following the recent flareup of hostilities between the warring factions. The paper expressed fears that the new situation will pave the way for formal partition of Lebanon in implementation of external plots and conspiracies against this Arab country. The paper said the new flareup of fighting came shortly after an Arab League mediation committee has carried out an intensive effort towards solving the Lebanese crisis and bringing about reconciliation among various groups. The paper expressed astonishment that the fighting broke out as the committee was about to achieve good progress towards ending the hostilities and said that the new fighting could be a sign by certain elements that they will oppose any move towards peace and stability in the country. In the light of this situation the Arab committee has no alternative but to carry on its mission and try to reach a general agreement with the heads of different groups, the paper added. It said the committee's mediation effort could be the last, and this chance should be seized by the concerned Lebanese parties if they really are willing to reach a settlement.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments on Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens's visit to Washington and says that the outcome of the visit was as expected: open disagreement between Washington and Tel Aviv over the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Abdul Rahim Omar says that the United States has realised that the situation in the Middle East can no more tolerate any procrastination and has no more room for more stalling by the Israeli government which should talk to the Palestinians and seek a peaceful settlement. The writer refers to an official U.S. statement that said the Israeli prime minister should bring with him to Washington new ideas for a settlement and, the writer adds, this clearly indicates that the United States is no more convinced by Tel Aviv's arguments. But he adds one has to refer also to James Baker's statement that the PLO and Israel should open a dialogue, a move considered unfavourable to the Arab countries which have already announced that there can be no unilateral negotiations. The writer says the United States should not ignore the idea of the international conference which alone can provide a feasible forum for discussing and settling the Palestine problem.

Al Dustour daily said the Arabs are encouraged by the open difference in views between Washington and Tel Aviv. The paper said that with its latest statement about the need for Israel to talk directly to the PLO, the United States has moved one step forward towards the achievement of a lasting settlement. The paper said the latest American statements are bound to restore some credibility to Washington which has been streamlining its policies with those of Israel and taking a hostile attitude towards the Arab World. It noted that a more balanced American policy vis-a-vis the Middle East issue is bound to give some impetus to the peace making process.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that Washington's new position with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict is a significant development because it signals the United States' realisation of the facts in the Middle East and indicates that Washington is determined to take practical and constructive steps towards a lasting settlement. The Palestinian uprising, the paper noted, has totally exposed Israel's ugly face to the world and the PLO's moderate stand has brought about a change in the United States attitude towards the organisation and the whole issue.

By Naseer Aruri

THE REAGAN era has left the Bush administration a legacy of hostility to the Palestinians. Over the past eight years, Reagan succeeded in marginalising the Palestine question through the special U.S.-Israel relationship and his "anti-terrorist" campaign, which became the principal impediment to a political settlement under international auspices. He consolidated U.S. policy, which has been evolving towards unilateralism since the 1967 war, shielded Israel from international scrutiny and reinforced its claim to negotiate with non-Palestinian interlocutors. The peace process, a misnomer, thus became a mechanism for reconciling strategic requirements with the imperatives of peace, which perpetuated the 20 years impasse.

And yet America's uncritical support for Israel could not stop the latter from escaping accountability to the U.S. body politic: it rejected every single U.S. initiative for a settlement, which involved territorial withdrawal from any part of Palestine, starting with the plan of Secretary of State William Rogers in 1969 and ending with that of George Shultz in 1988. And in between, it scuttled President Carter's 1977 initiatives, whose fate was sealed by Camp David, and the 1982 Reagan plan, which emerged stillborn.

Israel was able to treat its patron and benefactor with such contempt because it took the credit for having crowned it as the prime superpower of the region, principal custodian and sole arbiter of peace. The suspension of peace in the Middle East, which amounted to granting Israel a free hand in the West Bank and Gaza, was, in effect, the price of unilateralism. Given Israel's role as a bastion of anti-communism and a catalyst in Reagan's post Vietnam formula for U.S. military intervention, it seemed rather unseemly to bring up an issue as insignificant as that of the West Bank into the relations of the strategic allies.

As long as that foreign policy climate prevailed, Israel was insulated from the pressure for a territorial settlement. Its utility in the U.S. global strategy far outweighed its obligations for peace in the region. And thus the continuation of the untenable status quo in the occupied Arab territories was linked to heightened conflict in the world. By the same token, the urgency for reconsideration of that status quo would be likely to develop in the context of détente.

The new Soviet approach

The latter period of the Reagan presidency was one of profound change in the world at large and in the Middle East. That change carried a potential to unfreeze the status quo in the West Bank and Gaza, which has thus far been guarded by the special relationship and reinforced by Reagan's anti-terrorist. Whether that happens or not remains to be seen. But the pressure on the United States to adjust to the change is growing.

The two major developments in 1988 in United States policy towards the Palestine question — the Shultz plan and the dialogue with the PLO — came largely in response to these profound changes in the international, regional and local contexts of the Palestine question. They raised the question of whether the effective suspension of the Israeli veto over U.S. contact with the PLO is an indication that Israel can no longer treat the special relationship as a one-way street and whether the U.S. could defend interests and exploit opportunities in the Middle East and continue to back Israeli position, which undermine U.S. policy.

The three dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict at the local, regional and international levels have been altered in such a profound manner that the assumptions of the U.S.-Israeli convergence could no longer avoid reconsideration. The anti-cold war thinking and foreign policy reforms adopted by Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985 were bound to have an impact on the frozen Middle East situation. The Soviet Union, which has been largely absent from the Middle East "peace process" since its 1972 ouster by Kissinger, is now returning to the region — not as the sponsor of local surrogates or the arch enemy of "reactionary" Arab states or Zionist Israel, but as a superpower eager to play the role of a moderator rather than collaborator. Thus, faced with a Soviet policy which is beginning to assign pragmatism a certain priority over ideology, the United States will be faced with both a historic opportunity and an obligation to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, a task which would necessitate pressure on Israel and may thus impose a strain on the strategic alliance.

The new Soviet approach is likely to take some wind out of the sails of the U.S.-Israel special relationship, having gone a long

way towards meeting the U.S. position, and bringing with it a regional alignment most of whose components are normally pro-American. The scenario of the new line-up of Arab forces, including Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the PLO, is conceived in an exchange of territory for peace, which the U.S., Europe and the Soviet Union urge with varying degrees of emphasis. This Arab alignment, bolstered by the new Soviet approach, will place a heavy onus on the United States to reassess its policy. Furthermore, the Soviet Union, having just concluded or brokered agreements ending regional conflicts in Afghanistan, Southern Africa and Cambodia, will be in a strong position to argue that the imperatives for an international settlement in the Middle East are no less urgent than elsewhere. Supporting this endeavour will be Western Europe, whose parliament invited Arafat in September 1988 to give a major address on the Palestinian perspective on peace. The invitation to Strasbourg emphasised a new European readiness to participate in a peace process based on the concept of mutual recognition.

The U.S. scene: 1) public opinion

There are indications that a gap has been growing recently between the requirements of public opinion and the content of public policy in the United States with respect to the Palestine-Israeli conflict. The public mood has undergone some change, largely due to the intifada. Yet Palestine has never been high on the offi-

cial agenda. As long as it did not interfere in America's policy objectives in the region, peace initiatives seemed unnecessary. The Shultz plan, despite its deficiencies and the lack of resolve to assure its success, was, in part, a response to altered domestic realities. The subsequent U.S. decision to talk to the PLO, in response to Arafat's acceptance of U.S. conditions, also seemed to accord with the view of a majority of Americans. Public opinion polls taken before and

after the 14 December U.S. decision to open the dialogue revealed strong support for a PLO role in peace negotiations. In January 1988, a general call for peace was endorsed by 74 per cent and 48 per cent favoured approval on PLO recognition of Israel's right to exist, as required by the Kissinger formula. This percentage increased in December 1988 when a Gallup poll showed that 72 per cent approved of the U.S. decision to talk to the PLO while only 20 per cent disapproved. The same poll also showed that although public sup-

port for Israel prior to the intifada held steady at 46 per cent during 1988, the percentage of support for the Palestinians, which had been rated by another poll at 11 per cent in January 1988, reached 24 per cent in December. The change in public opinion was also reflected in the media coverage and in the attitude of the American Jewish community. Recent diplomatic history of the region reveals a number of so-called reassessments, under-

taken by successive administrations, including Reagan's. These were intended to remind Israel that occasional historical changes often alter the context and forces operating on U.S. and Israeli interests in the region, provoking divergence in their styles, conceptions of security and the cost and nature of alliances. Such divergences are not untypical of those occurring between colonial settler regimes, which must survive on the land, labour and resources of indigenous people, and the more mobile and flexible metropolitan interests, which must accommodate shifting alliances and emerging political and economic forces. In a word, the United States is

more capable of adapting to shifting alignments than Israel, whose margin of manoeuvre is constrained by national and religious myths, which inhibit flexible policy responses to change.

The United States, as a superpower, is also called upon to deal with its increased diplomatic isolation in the Middle East. Israel, on the other hand, acting under the impetus of a fortress mentality, has become accustomed to defiance and obstruction of the international consensus, and almost oblivious to the cost of defending Israel's territorial acquisitions and colonialist projects. Divergence in U.S. and Israeli conceptions of security was illustrated by Shultz's lecture to the Israelis on 5 June 1988, when he said: "The location of borders is less significant today in ensuring security than the political relations between neighbours. Peace is the real answer to the problem of security." In another lecture on borders, he said: "Borders today are permeable and porous, indifferent to the ballistic missile." Richard Murphy, the under-secretary of state, sounded a similar theme when he said the "geography and conventional military strategy can no longer ensure security." He told Israel that the "key to real security" is the acceptance of "legitimate political rights." He also raised the cost of suppressing the intifada when he pointed out the glaring disparity between Israel's defence expenditure which amounts to 19 per cent of gross national product and the average of 5 per cent for other countries in the world. Murphy even downgraded Camp David, which both the U.S. and Israel had come to

regard as a sacred cow. He did not think that the "clock can be turned back to 1978," adding that "this is an illusion which cannot and will not be fulfilled."

The task for Bush

Although the changed rhetoric of U.S. policy signifies some departure from the uncritical support of the general Israeli position, the Reagan-Shultz legacy has not been reversed by the decision to talk to the PLO. Shultz's root difficulty with the Palestinians is not terrorism or their refusal to grant Israel the right to exist, but rather his perception of their revolutionary potential in a region over which the United States claims tutelage. But now, however, Washington views the PLO as a spoiler of its territorial ambitions.

The firm commitment of George Bush to the strategic alliance with Israel is not likely to erode in the near future: he may, however, have been granted by his predecessor room for manoeuvre. His task will be to open a dialogue with Israel for the purpose of bridging a perceptual gap regarding the limits and obligations of the special relationship and the dictates of U.S. and Israeli interests in the region. The debate will not centre on the rationale and substance of the relationship but on its manifestations and procedural requirements. The Palestinian uprising has reshaped and clarified the Arab-Israeli conflict in 1988; Bush's challenge is to reconcile the U.S. and Israeli responses — Middle East International, London.

American Jews are misrepresented

By Michael Lerner

OAKLAND, California — The Bush administration will soon face heavy lobbying from the Jewish organisations that claim to speak for all American Jews. In fact, they don't.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Anti-Defamation League and other impressive sounding coalitions can be expected to convey support for Israeli policy. They will urge the administration to pay little attention to the recent State Department report on human rights violations in the occupied territories, and will attempt to put curbs on the American dialogue with the Palestinian leadership.

When Yitzhak Shamir arrives in America this spring, he is likely to try to use his warmed over autonomy proposals as a way of covering his continued refusal to negotiate with the PLO or to consider a Palestinian state. He can count on most of these leaders to endorse his ideas or uncharacteristically keep their mouths shut about their objections.

The administration should note what the media are beginning to acknowledge: This leadership claims to speak for all Jews but represents only the most conservative ones.

There is another sector whose voices have been stifled inside the "organised Jewish community" and whose members are appalled by Israel's brutal repression of the Palestinian uprising. They re-

ject Shamir's attempts to perpetuate the occupation of the West Bank.

Prime Minister Shamir's policies are in question in Israel. Polls there this year show that a majority of Israelis would support negotiations with the PLO. Shamir's only hope for maintaining his rejectionist policies is to receive a mandate from American Jewish leaders that he cannot get from the Israeli public. To ensure their loyalty, he has invited hundreds of them to a gathering in Jerusalem in March.

The American and Israeli media interpreted the enthusiastic reception Shamir got from these leaders last March as proof that his rejection of George Shultz's peace plan was sup-

ported by American Jews. Perceived as spokesmen for American Jews, these leaders put enormous pressure on congressional leaders to back away from their statements urging Israel to accept the Shultz plan. Three weeks later, the Los Angeles Times released a poll, conducted in late March, showing that 60 per cent of American Jews supported the Shultz initiative.

B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress, to name the organisations most frequently quoted, face membership crises. They have been unable to attract substantial number of Jews born after World War II.

Political and social conservatism, the absence of democratic

mechanisms for choosing national policies and of real debate, and the replacing of authentic Judaism with empty ethnicity, have alienated young Jews from most Jewish organisations that claim to represent them.

When young Jews join synagogues and give money to federations to support social services in local Jewish communities and in Israel, they do not intend thereby to empower "national leaders" to speak in their names.

The much touted "young leadership" is not elected but selected by professionals who hope to receive large donations from these budding businesspeople, who then are dubbed "community leaders" in return for their financial largesse.

This skewing of the "organised Jewish community" toward the wealthy and toward talented fund-raisers encourages a climate of organisational conservatism that is out of step with the thinking of most American Jews.

The bad news is that young Jews have distanced themselves from the Jewish world. They do so because they have found the organised Jewish world dominated by materialism, conformism and spiritual emptiness, and have found themselves branded disloyal or "self-hating."

The good news is that a growing number of young Jews no longer cede their heritage to the voices of the establishment and are creating alternative institutions, publications, conferences, study and prayer groups and consciousness-raising groups.

In years ahead, the silenced

majority will increasingly refuse to be hushed. Referendums on national policy affecting Jews, could re-energise the Jewish world and attract that majority. But democratisation is likely to be thwarted by the elites and paid professionals in the "organised Jewish community."

The Bush administration and the media must not be misled by today's Jewish leaders. Shamir has no blank check from American Jews to perpetuate the occupation indefinitely and to refuse to participate in serious negotiations — The New York Times.

LETTERS

Most gracious

To the Editor:

I AM sure thousands of your readers join me in extending heart-felt gratitude to Sweden for its decision to contribute JD 2 million worth for restoring a rehabilitation clinic for the physically handicapped in Ramallah. This gracious humanitarian gesture could not have come at a more appropriate time, when the neo-Nazis are increasing daily the number of handicapped among our brave freedom-fighters.

George Khoury
Amman

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The art of war and peace

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

Khomeini wanted humanity to go backwards, and we didn't want to go backwards."

market, official tastes tend to dominate. Artists generally laud the gov-

ernment's tough standards in selecting the works they commis-

sion. Part of the quality comes from the highly competitive art colleges.

BAGHDAD — Murthada Haddad, one of Iraq's emerging sculptors, spent six years fighting the Iranians in the Gulf war. The horrors he and other artists experienced at the front have had a dramatic impact on Iraqi art.

"I saw too many people die in the war and they come out in my work. It was a very, very painful experience," said Haddad, who lost his studio and foundry in the southern port of Basra when it took a direct hit from Iranian shellfire during fierce assaults on the city.

Six months after the August ceasefire, few signs of the conflict disfigure the streets of Baghdad. In the capital's museums, galleries and artists' studios, the scars of battle live on.

Gone are the idyllic landscapes, the hedonism on horseback, the scenes from the marshes and the mountains, all traditional subjects that artists favoured before the war began in September 1980.

In their place are searing sculptures and paintings that reflect the carnage the artists witnessed. Among them:

Three sculptures by Haddad, displayed at a recent one-man exhibition, showing small bronze figures sitting twisted and bound, covering their faces. The group is called "prisoner of war."

A statue commemorating a missile attack designed by Mohammad Ghani, whose whimsical statues inspired by the legend of the 1,001 nights are Baghdad landmarks. A girl in the statue has two shattered stumps for legs.

A painting entitled "War and Peace," which won plastic surgeon Al Hussein Bashir the gold medal at the Baghdad International Festival, shows a man leaving the cold, metallic bonds of his military uniform to float among the clouds.

"The war turned the work of most Iraqi artists into art that has something to say, not art for decoration," Bashir, 50, said in an interview. "They may use the same style, but the subject has changed."

Results of war

Painter Shaker Hassan, 64, remembers his first visit to the front after a fierce battle.

"When I saw Basra and the front lines, I understood the dramatic results of war," he said. "When the town itself is burned by bombardment, it means the existence of things is destroyed — not just humans, but walls, paintings as well."

One side of his pyramidal painting "Al-Fao," created after the Iraqi army recaptured the strategic southern peninsula in April 1983 after two years of Iranian occupation, is filled with brightly coloured triangles and squares.

"I was using the cultural symbols from Arab and Islamic art, like old wall decorations from mosques, to represent the strength of the culture," he said. "Rebuilding them means peace."

Artists and critics expect more powerful work to emerge once artists in the 1 million-strong army Iraq still keeps in the field get back to their easels.

"In the past, the school that was dominant in Iraqi art was the calligraphy school," said prominent critic Jabra Ibrahim Jabra. "With the war, there was a reaction against that."

"The younger artists are very powerful in their statements, using rough colours, a lot of paint, taking a lot of liberty with the canvas. They're trying to say something very personal and very agonised."

One strong theme that has emerged in the war-influenced art is the enduring legacy of the civilisations that prospered along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Artists said 5,000 years of history in the region was a source of inspiration against the onslaught by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's army.

Ancient civilisation

"We have an ancient civilisation," Ghani said. "Islam is relatively young. It's only been here for the past 1,400 years."



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Cats eyes and a fools paradise

By Paul Luke
Reuter

TORONTO — Canadian author Margaret Atwood risked outraging her devoted feminist following by portraying young women as vicious and manipulative in her latest novel "Cat's eye."

But the book, released in Britain in January and in the United States in February, has so far won approval from even her most militant feminist readers.

Atwood, 49, said in a recent interview. Women see in the novel the scheming and back-biting that marked the female relationships of their own early years, she said.

"If we pretend that there are no power plays among women, we're living in a fool's paradise," Atwood said.

"You may ask yourself why there isn't a women's movement that has 95 per cent membership and, I think, one of the reasons is that it takes people quite a lot of time to get over the distrust that they've built up towards one another in childhood."

"Cat's eye," Atwood's seventh novel, examines the bleak inner life of Elaine Risley, a middle-aged Vancouver painter who returns to her hometown of Toronto for a retrospective of her work.

Elaine pines for the city and recalls her anguished childhood, hoodluming over Cordelia, a girl who tormented her by threatening to suspend her friendship.

As a child, Elaine carries her favourite Cat's eye marble to give her courage in the face of her friend's cruelty.

"Cat's eye" is a sharp departure from "The handmaid's tale," the 1985 novel that won Atwood her greatest international commercial and critical success.

In "The handmaid's tale," Atwood created a futuristic totalitarian society set in a nuclear wasteland once known as Boston.

Atwood is acting as consultant for a film version of "The handmaid's tale" being shot in North Carolina.

Directed by Germany's Volker Schlöndorff from a screenplay by British playwright Harold Pinter, the movie stars Robert Duvall, Faye Dunaway and Elizabeth McGovern.

Atwood said that since "Cat's eye" focuses on universal human concerns, its Canadian setting, even if unfamiliar, won't deter foreign readers.

"What makes Faulkner a writer of international stature is not the fact that he is writing about Oxford, Mississippi, but what he did with that," she said.

Like her character Elaine Risley, Atwood is sharply critical of Toronto, citing mounting traffic and pollution problems.

Had she not been promoting "Cat's eye" late last year, Atwood said, she might have fought for change by entering politics.

"I seriously considered running for mayor. And if nobody else does it next time, I'll do it," she said.

The story of Northern Ireland

Those who die in confusion

In Northern Ireland's endless cycle of killing and revenge, the combined weight of statistics and rhetoric often eclipses the human tragedy.

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

COAGH, Northern Ireland — On an unseasonably warm and sunny day last week, the official death toll in the Northern Ireland conflict went up by one stock car racer, one violin-maker and one nearly blind old-age pensioner.

Leslie Dallas, Austin Nelson and Ernie Rankin were chatting in the forecourt of Dallas' garage in Coagh when an Irish Republican Army squad drove up in a red car and shot them dead.

Why? The IRA claimed 40-year-old Dallas was running the garage as a front for a Protestant murder squad. The police said it was simply because the IRA comprises sectarian murderers. Analysts cited unavenged previous murders.

Three Protestants killed in an obscure county tyroine village may be mere statistical blips in the larger picture of the IRA's 68-year fight for a United Ireland, and the Protestants' equally dogged struggle to remain part of Britain.

But to Coagh they were local heroes: Dallas as a driving champ, Nelson as a violin-maker who was just featured on Network TV, and Rankin as the jovial old codger who played the role of village "character."

The garage stands on a corner of Hanover Square where generations of villagers have stopped to shoot the breeze. The IRA admits that Nelson, 68, and Rankin, 71, were innocent bystanders killed "in the general confusion."

On the morning after the killings, Coagh (pronounced coke) was wrapped in an overpowering sense of lives abruptly cut down.

The raw shell of an unfinished violin lay on Nelson's work table. Two doors down, in Dallas' garage, an uncompleted worksheet was spread on a desk. His racing trophies lined the windowsill.

A red carnation was jammed in the garage padlock. Bunches of daffodils lay on the asphalt by the bullet-pocked garage wall.

Such random death is depressingly common in Northern Ireland. Ordinary people die in the cross-fire, or because, they hap-

pened by just as a bomb exploded. They may die simply because of their religion, or because they have a brother in the IRA, or because of mistaken identity.

Nelson was a retired truck driver who had turned to making violins in the shed behind his house. The TV documentary about him was aired the night before he died.

"The film was the talk of the town. Dad was so proud," said his son, Michael, 26. "Two ladies came by. They'd seen the film and asked to him to play them a tune. One of the ladies told him that even though she met him only for a short time, she'd remember him for the rest of her life."

Rankin was a life-long bachelor and soccer fanatic with distinctive white, shoulder-length hair. Being nearly blind, he would sit inches from the TV screen to watch the games.

He liked having local youngsters over for big matches and would make them tea while they watched the match. Among the qualities the villagers remember was his extraordinary ability to loop his leg around his neck.

One day Rankin dropped in on Nelson. Then he ambled over to the garage to see who was around for a chat. A few minutes later, Nelson put down the violin he was working on and headed off to join him. The stolen car carrying the three IRA attackers was already on its way to Coagh.

The killings pushed the overall death toll since 1969 to 2,727. Sixty-nine per cent were civilians.

The ordinary suffer

"It's the ordinary people who suffer, and no two ways about it," snapped Nan Duff, a neighbour who saw the bodies lying by the garage.

She could just as well have been referring to Phelim McNally, Tony Fusco, Barney Lavery, Ian Catey or 13-year-old Emma Donnelly — just some of the people who have been killed "by mistake" in recent months.

McNally loved children — at 28 he already had five — and playing the accordion. His brother, Fran-

cis, is a pro-IRA politician, but Phelim was never involved in anything that might single him out for murder.

Last November, he delivered his pregnant wife, Pauline, to the hospital and went to Francis' house to give his 10-year-old nephew an accordion lesson. Someone knocked at the door. Francis went to the window. Phelim, less schooled in the art of survival, opened the door and was shot dead.

Four hours later, Pauline gave birth to their sixth child. Death can have a grisly way of becoming a family event in Northern Ireland. Dallas, for instance, died in front of his children. They had just gotten off their school bus.

Then there was Lavery, 67, driving home with his 13-year-old granddaughter, Emma Donnelly when an IRA bomb went off outside a police station in Benburb and killed them.

Emma was junior camogie (women's hurling) player of the year. Lavery had been the number-caller at the bingo evening to raise funds for the ancient order of Hibernians. The IRA apologized for the mistake.

On Jan. 18, Catney, 26, was shot dead by Protestant gunmen behind the counter of his mother's gift shop in Belfast. On Feb. 9, Fusco was gunned down while waiting for his daily ride to his job at a glass factory.

Both were Catholics. Neither had any known political links. The Ulster Volunteer Force claimed responsibility. As the priest said at Fusco's funeral, it was "guilt by association, guilt by family name, guilt by unfounded suspicion, collective and community guilt, guilt by religion..."

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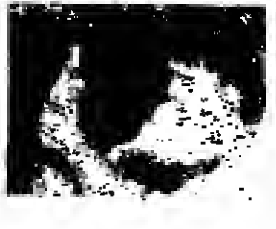
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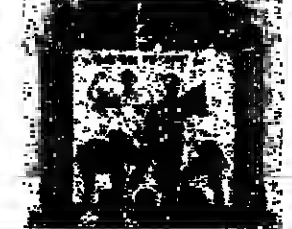
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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Lewis to race in Tokyo meeting in May

TOKYO (R) — Carl Lewis of the United States, the Olympic 100 metres and long jump champion, will head a star-studded field of 60 athletes from 19 countries in the Tokyo international track-and-field meeting on May 14, organisers said Monday. They said Joe DeLoach, who beat Lewis into second place in the Olympic 200 metres final in Seoul, would also be running. Olympic silver medalists Evelyn Ashford of the United States and Grace Jackson of Jamaica will line up among the women sprinters. Most of the foreign athletes, although Lewis and DeLoach will not be among them, will also take part in the Shizuoka international athletics meeting in Hamamatsu, west of Tokyo, on May 7.

Davis and White have tough opening battles

SHEFFIELD, England (R) — Steve Davis of Britain cleared the first hurdle in the defence of his world professional snooker title Saturday in a match that was tougher than the 10-5 score suggests. There was a minute's silence before the start of play Saturday night as a mark of respect to those who died in the nearby Hillsborough disaster earlier in the day. Davis, the top seed who is bidding to equal Ray Reardon's modern-day record of six world titles, defeated compatriot Steve Newbury to reach the last 16. Second-seeded Jimmy White of Britain also had to struggle before eliminating New Zealander Dene O'Kane 10-7.

East German Olympic (swimming) star back and winning again

EAST BERLIN (R) — Kristin Otto of East Germany, who won six swimming golds at last year's Olympics, was in winning form when she returned to action at the weekend for the first time since the Seoul games. The 23-year-old student journalist won both her events in a domestic competition here. She clocked one minute 03.32 seconds in the 100 metres backstroke and 2:17.04 in the 200 metres backstroke. Trainer Stefan Hetzer said the times were virtually the same as those recorded at the same event last year.

Czechs, Germans tie

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Defenceman Bedrich Scerban scored midway through the final period to give Czechoslovakia a 3-3 tie with West Germany in Saturday's opening game of the World Hockey Championships. Scerban beat goalie Karl Friesen from close range at 11:20 on the power play as the Czechs rallied from two goals down to pick up a well-deserved point. Veteran Dieter Hegen scored the first goal of the championships at 11:58 in the opening period, firing a slap shot past goalie Dominik Hasek. Centre Vladimir Ruzicka tied it for Czechoslovakia at 12:48 as the West Germans were playing one man short.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
ANIL OMAR SHARIF
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DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A K Q 10 7
♥ V 10 6 5
♦ Q J 6 5
♣ A 9 7 3

WEST
♠ 9 6 3
♥ A Q 10 6 4 3
♦ 9
♣ Q J 8

EAST
♠ 8 5 4
♥ J 9 2
♦ 10 8 3 2
♣ K 10 6

SOUTH
♠ J 2
♥ K 8 7 5
♦ A K 7 4
♣ 5 4 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 2 ♠
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠
Many years ago we came across a bit of verse about someone attempting the impossible, only to find it couldn't be done. But sometimes someone leads a helping hand.

West's overall suggested to North that most of South's points would be working. He decided, therefore, that slam should have reasonable play, and got there by the shortest possible route.

West led the queen of clubs, ducked in dummy, and it bled the trick as East signalled with the ten. The club continuation was taken by the ace, and the king-ace of trumps revealed the bad break. Thifos looked bleak.

Declarer tried three rounds of spades, discarding his losing club. When that bled, he ruffed a club and was in ecstasy when that suit also divided evenly, setting up a long club on the table. All that remained was to draw the last two trumps and claim the contract, since all dummy's black-suit cards were winners.

Declarer did superbly to cash in on a lucky distribution. As is often the case, however, we must credit the defense with an assist.

West's lead of the queen of clubs surely marked him with the jack. Therefore, East could have overtook on with the king to shift to a heart. As the cards lie, that would have resulted in the slam going down.

Declarer would have been forced to ruff in dummy, shortening the trumps there to three. Now, there is no way declarer can come to 12 tricks. Try it!

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS 4-29



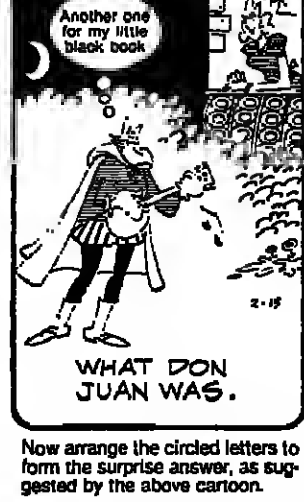
"I've been trying to sell the motion picture rights to your recipe file. It'd make a great horror movie!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NUCEL
ABDEK
LETHEM
VRLED



WHAT DON JUAN WAS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A "BIG" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ENEMY COUGH VIABLE DEVICE
Answer: Why Dracula died of a broken heart—HE HAD LOVED IN "VEIN"



Sabatini beats Graf

AMELIA ISLAND (R) — Gabriela Sabatini fought back brilliantly from one set down to beat Steffi Graf in the final of the Amelia Island women's tennis tournament and hand the world number one her first defeat of the year.

Sabatini, serving strong and relying on her lively topspin groundstrokes, defeated Graf 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 to snap the West German's 31-match unbeaten streak in 1989.

"This is a very emotional moment for me," Sabatini said during the award ceremony on court. "I really had to work hard to beat Steffi today. I had to fight."

The Argentine teenager, one month shy of her 19th birthday, collected \$60,000 for her third victory in 18 matches against Graf.

Graf, who swept the Grand Slam last year, lost only three times in 1988. Two of those defeats were

administered by Sabatini, who beat the West German in the semifinals in this clay court tournament last year.

"It's been a long time since I had to make the first speech," Graf told the crowd after the match. "It was a great fight. I hope one day I am back to show my best tennis."

Graf, who had lost only one set all year prior to the match, collected \$24,000.

Graf started out in usual fashion, powering her way through the first set, which she won 6-3.

Sabatini, however, changed tactics and turned the tide.

"I started playing a little different, I played a little more deep," Sabatini said. "She started to make mistakes. My game was bothering her. In the beginning I was playing too short."

The third-seeded Argentine, who reached the final by beating world number two Martina Navratilova, began driving her groundstrokes deeper, mixing up her attack by adding loft to her strokes as she won the second set 6-3 to tie the match.

An early break gave Sabatini the edge in the final set but Graf refused to give in easily.

With Sabatini serving for the match at 5-4, the 19-year-old West German reached back right point by stretching far to her right to launch a scintillating lob that landed just over Sabatini on the back line. Sabatini sent a backhand wide on the next point to bring the set back on serve.

But Sabatini responded by breaking right back, running Graf from side to side with her cross-court topspin, and then served out to win the deciding set 7-5.

"This match gives me much confidence for the future," Sabatini said. "I'm there mentally, physically."

Graf said she was bothered by leg cramps at the end of the third set and was trying to shorten the points.

"I couldn't wait for her to hit more moonballs. I had to be more aggressive," Graf said. "She always plays high topspin but not usually that high."

Sabatini, who is still looking to win her first Grand Slam title, said she was looking forward to playing in Roland Garros next month in the French Open.

"I have a good possibility in the French," she said. "I would like to win."

Ethiopians dominate marathons

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Keleke Metaferia and Dereje Nedi gave Ethiopia a 1-2 sweep Sunday in the third edition of the IAAF Men's World Marathon Cup.

Metaferia, 20, outdistanced his teammate in the last 500 metres (yards) of the 26.2-mile (42.1-kilometre) race, finishing in 2 hours, 10 minutes and 28 seconds — eight seconds ahead of Nedi. Italy's Gianni Poli trailed the winner by 21 seconds in third place.

The young Ethiopian runner improved by nearly six minutes his previous best marathon performance as he took his first-ever marathon race on his third attempt. He previously had won the world title for juniors in the 20-kilometre (12.4-mile) road race.

It was an all-Ethiopian day in the tough event through the downtown streets of Milan as the squad also took the team title, ahead of Italy. A third Ethiopian, Tesfaye Tafa, led the race from the sixth through the 21st mile (33rd kilometre).

It was the first Ethiopian victory in the world cup organised by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

Densimo wins Rotterdam Marathon
ROTTERDAM, Netherlands

(AP) — Belaneh Densimo of Ethiopia Sunday won the 1989 Rotterdam Marathon in 2:08.39, but failed to improve his 1988 world record of 2:06.50, also set in the Dutch port city.

Second to finish was Alejandro Cruz of Mexico in 2:09.24, with Dutch runner Marti Ten Kate finishing in third place in 2:10.03.

A remarkably relaxed Densimo, 22, and 21-year-old Cruz broke away from the rest of the runners shortly before the 30-kilometre (18.6 mile) mark, which they passed in 1:30.29.

But the Ethiopian finally took the lead about 20 minutes before the finish.

Running in a cool 9 degrees Celsius (48 degrees Fahrenheit), with wind speeds ranging around 14.4 kilometres (8.9 miles) an hour and 88 per cent humidity, the Ethiopian policeman won his third successive Rotterdam race.

Soviet Zvereva signs U.S. agent to regain earnings

AMELIA ISLAND (R) — Natalia Zvereva, the Soviet Union's top-ranked tennis player, has hired a U.S. sports marketing firm to help pressure her country's tennis officials into allowing her to keep her winnings.

Zvereva, ranked eighth in the world, is the first Soviet player to be represented by a Western sports marketing company, Sara Fornaciari of Proserv, the Washington, D.C.-based company which signed Zvereva, said Friday.

"I want to exercise my rights as professional tennis players do the world over, which means that I must receive my prize money directly and also all of my other income. I want to establish my own schedule as the other players do," Zvereva said in a statement.

issued through Proserv. Zvereva's earnings now go to the Soviet Tennis Federation.

She earned \$361,354 last year and so far this year has won \$60,000.

Zvereva, who will celebrate her 18th birthday Sunday, receives \$1,000 a week plus expenses from the Soviets, Fornaciari said.

"I want to continue to work closely with the Soviet Tennis Federation in many areas and to support my country both financially and in all international competitions," Zvereva said in the statement.

At a press conference, Zvereva made it clear she did not want to sever ties with her homeland.

"I am not going to defect from

my country," Zvereva said in response to a question.

Asked if the Soviet Union understood her concern about earnings, Zvereva said: "I don't think they understand that. I don't think they did they would change."

Zvereva, who is coached by her father, was eliminated earlier this week by a qualifier in the \$300,000 Amelia Island tennis tournament.

Zvereva, who said she was not afraid of possible negative reaction from the Soviet Union to her announcement, also joined the Women's International Tennis Association (WITA) along with compatriot Larisa Savchenko. They are the first Soviet players to join the WITA.

UK clubs reentry threatened by deaths

LONDON (AP) — Only last week, Liverpool fans and the rest of the English soccer world were looking forward to the end of a long exile from European competition.

Now, the celebrations have turned to doubt following the 94 deaths this past Saturday at an overcrowded soccer stadium in Sheffield, Northern England.

Officials of both world and European levels of soccer said they would have to think hard about re-admitting English teams to their competitions.

Reports indicated that Saturday's disaster had nothing to do with crowd violence, once dubbed "The British Disease," that resulted in the nation's ouster from European competition.

But officials pointed to the tarnished reputation of the fans and called for an end to standing-room areas like the one where many of the deaths occurred Saturday at Hillsborough Stadium.

"We have been saying for a long time that standing room must be converted into seating space," Gerhard Aigner, UEFA's General Secretary, said. "But that will take time in view of

the traditions and the costs."

Sepp Blatter, Secretary General of the world soccer body, FIFA said "preconditions are bad for a participation by English clubs in European competition."

"We have been preaching... that soccer stadiums must be made more comfortable," Blatter said in a Swiss newspaper interview.

"That means there should be exclusively individual seats. Such disasters have been occurring only in the standing room sections."

Only last week, UEFA announced it was lifting the ban on English club participation in the Champions Cup, Cupwinners Cup and UEFA Cup in time for the 1990-91 season, pending a review next April and good behavior by the fans.

The English were barred after the 1985 Heysel Stadium riot in Brussels when a rampage by Liverpool fans killed 39 fans before the Champions Cup final against Juventus of Italy.

lift the ban.

In Saturday's FA Cup semifinal between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest, hundreds more fans than the official capacity packed a standing area behind one of the goals. Dozens were crushed through sheer weight of numbers as an anti-riot steel fence collapsed under pressure.

Aigner noted that UEFA regulations for top European games require that 5 per cent of the standing tickets remain unsold.

"This results in a sort of safety margin and to prevent overcrowding," he said.

Blatter said whether or not fan violence had occurred, hard-core English fans had not learned any lessons.

"After the Heysel catastrophe, Mrs. Thatcher described the English fans as a disgrace for England," Blatter was quoted as saying. "Let's see what she will say now."

"That is, the decrepit nature of stadiums, the poor organisation of the match and of the security personnel," he said.

The president of the Swiss Football Federation, voicing shock at the Sheffield disaster, was quoted Monday as saying he will ask the Swiss army to help police ensure safety at the May 10 European Cup of cupwinners final at Bern between Sampdoria Genoa and CR-Barcelona.

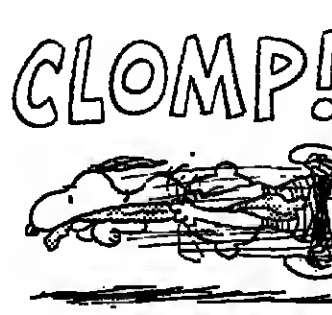
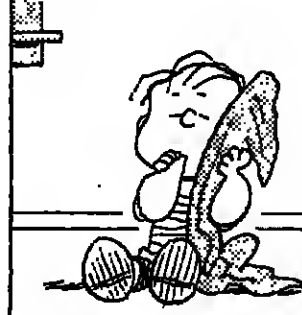
"To have police alone is not enough," Freddy Rumo was quoted as telling Blick, Switzerland's top circulation tabloid.

"There must not be new Sheffield disaster," he added according to Blick. "We must take all precautions. This week, I will request the army command to make troops available."

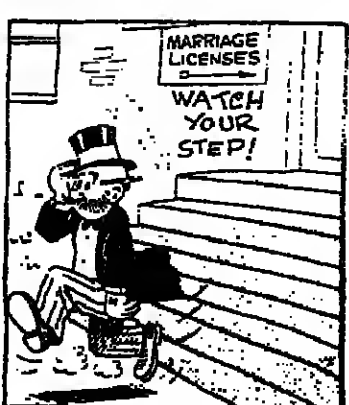
Rumo also was quoted as saying that Switzerland should never again offer to host a European club competition final.

"We have no stadium where absolute safety is guaranteed," Blick quoted Rumo, who is also vice president of the Union of European Football Associations, UEFA. "In the future, UEFA will award finals to stadiums which have only seating space."

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Chile denies anti-Japan move in fruit war

SANTIAGO (R) — Chile Friday denied it was detaining Japanese fishing boats in retaliation for Tokyo's embargo on imports of Chilean fruit.

"No fishing boat is being held up in port and one set sail after an inspection last night," Foreign Ministry spokesman Carlos Ducci said.

On Thursday Chilean navy chief Admiral Jose Toribio Merino said he had ordered all Japanese fishing boats in Chilean ports detained until Japan lifted the embargo.

"The Japanese have closed their markets to Chilean fruit and I have detained their boats in port," he said in a speech at a naval air base near the port of Valparaiso.

"Nobody fishes until they open

their market to our fruit," he said.

Chilean maritime director Captain Hector Higuera told Reuters Friday that the navy had carried out an exhaustive inspection of a Chilean-registered boat owned by Taiyo Fishery of Japan and the boat was free to start fishing again.

"This is routine procedure to make sure they are complying with international security regulations," he said.

On Thursday Higuera said five Japanese-owned boats were being held up in port for rigorous inspections. He said two of the

boats were docked in a naval shipyard for repairs.

In Tokyo, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Chile had asked some Japanese ships into port for security reasons. He said Japan could not say anything about it as the jurisdiction of the waters was Chile's.

Japan followed the United States and Canada in banning fruit imports from Chile Monday after the discovery of two grapes contaminated with cyanide in Philadelphia.

Japan last year opened its market to Chilean grapes for the first time. Chilean exporters had hoped to sell Japan \$30 million of table grapes this season.

Chile's \$600-million fruit export trade, the country's second

biggest foreign currency earner, was paralysed by the U.S., Japanese and Canadian embargoes.

Japan is not expected to lift its embargo until the United States does so first.

Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Errazuriz, in Washington for urgent talks with U.S. authorities aimed at ending the ban, mistakenly announced that Japan had re-opened its market to Chilean fruit, a foreign ministry official said.

Errazuriz was referring to Hoog Kong, where imports of Chilean fruit were resumed Wednesday, the official said.

U.S. may lift ban
WASHINGTON (R) — The

U.S. government is close to completing a plan that would allow Chilean fruit in warehouses to be released and sent to market, a senior U.S. official told Reuters Friday.

The official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said U.S. officials met last night and were to meet again shortly to review the latest findings in the U.S. government's search for further evidence of cyanide-contaminated fruit. "It depends on the data. If no more contaminated fruit is found, we can go ahead with the plan," said the official.

The official said an announcement could come as early as this morning.

Gandhi murder report sparks uproar

NEW DELHI (AP) — Members of India's ruling party said Friday they will present an ultimatum to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi — either he release a secret report that allegedly links a key aide to his mother's assassination, or they will.

Gandhi has weathered four days of opposition-inspired political turmoil since a major Indian newspaper published excerpts from a commission's inquiry into the 1984 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

But Friday's ultimatum was the first sign of dissension among members of Gandhi's Congress Party, which he must lead into general elections by the end of the year.

The government, citing national security interests, has refused to release the report.

Government sources, insisting on anonymity, said the report has been seen only by Gandhi and two senior cabinet ministers who

Indira Gandhi

have taken an oath of secrecy.

But about 80 Congress Party members say they have obtained detailed portions, which they planned to present to the prime minister and insist he hand over the entire report to parliament.

One Congress Party member, insisting on anonymity, said they would "present the prime minister with a fait accompli... either he discloses the report or we will."

The inquiry, ordered by the government and conducted by Supreme Court Judge M.P. Thakkar, paralleled police investigations into Mrs. Gandhi's assassination Oct. 31, 1984. It was submitted to the government 15 months later.

Opposition leaders in parliament began demanding the report Tuesday after the Indian Express published excerpts and sought to link a powerful government official to Mrs. Gandhi's murder.

Criticism clouds U.S.-Japan fighter project

TOKYO (AP) — A proposal for joint U.S.-Japanese development of Tokyo's next jet fighter plane FSX has spurred critics of excessive generosity on both sides of the Pacific, raising questions whether Japan may go it alone.

"Both sides remain dissatisfied, both feel they gave away too much," the national newspaper Asahi Shimbun said in a recent editorial. "Is it possible for the two countries to undertake the project in a positive way while there remains dissatisfaction on both sides?"

Proponents say the joint project would strengthen the U.S.-Japanese alliance and make it easier for the two sides' air forces to work together.

"It is my judgement that the FSX represents a good deal for Japan, a good deal for the United States and an excellent deal for the U.S.-Japan security and industrial relationship," former U.S. Defense Secretary Frank C. Carlucci told a Senate subcommittee.

But controversy remains. Japan considered itself generous for giving U.S. companies a share in developing the FSX plane. American critics say the deal has turned into a giveaway, to Japan,

of technology that helps make the United States a world leader in aircraft.

"Japan's primary aim is not simply to upgrade its fighter defence forces in the most cost-effective manner," U.S. Senator John C. Danforth has said. "Instead, its primary intention is to develop its own viable aerospace industry."

U.S. congressmen say Japan simply should buy U.S.-made planes to help cut America's \$50-billion deficit to trade with Japan. While they say this would be cheaper, too, the Japanese have disagreed.

U.S. critics also have been unhappy over the main Japanese contractor — Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, accused by some congressmen of helping Libya build an alleged chemical weapons plant. Mitsubishi has denied sending equipment or personnel for that project.

While a few Japanese lawmakers have suggested Japan go back to its original plan of developing the plane alone, Defence Agency Director General Kichiro Tazawa said Tuesday he expected "prompt" U.S. approval for the joint project.

Greek premier reshuffles cabinet but no new faces

ATHENS (R) — Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, aiming to restore confidence in his scandal-hit government, reshuffled his cabinet Friday but reappointed several ministers who had been expected to lose their posts.

Papandreu sacked his full cabinet Thursday to have a free hand to clean house and stop damage from a \$200 million bank scandal battering his Socialist government.

But only four ministers were not reappointed, including Public Order Minister George Petros and Justice Minister Vasilis Rotis.

Others widely expected to leave or change ministries re-

turned to their jobs.

Among them were Defence Minister Yannis Haralambopoulos, Economy Minister Panayiotis Roumeliotis and Papandreu's son, Education Minister George Papandreu.

Petros, Roumeliotis and George Papandreu have repeatedly been linked in press reports with fugitive tycoon George Koskotas, the man at the centre of the bank scandal. He is accused of embezzling millions from his privately-owned Bank of Crete.

The ruling Panhellenic Socialist Party (PASOK) has faced months of political trouble, with scandals in the arms and banking industries, Papandreu's affair with an

airline hostess and questions about his health after heart surgery in September.

But the prime minister appeared unable to enlist support from party stalwarts such as former Economy Minister Kostas Simitis who had been tipped to enter the government.

They have severely criticised the government's handling of the scandals and called for a house cleaning before elections due June 18. The party's popularity has plunged in opinion polls over the past five months.

Papandreu survived a confidence vote in parliament Tuesday but only after suffering new defections from PASOK ranks, prompting the cabinet reshuffle.

Authorities dismiss reports that Pan Am blast suspect detained

LONDON (AP) — British and West German authorities are discounting a report that a suspect has been arrested in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, which blew apart over Scotland in December, killing 270 people.

Meanwhile the Times of London, quoting unnamed government sources reported that the suspect has been identified.

The London newspaper Today, to an unattributed report, reported Friday that "the prime suspect, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Commando (PFLP-

GC), is believed to be under heavy guard somewhere in Europe."

The Times of London said police and security services investigating the bombing of the flight, which originated in Frankfurt, West Germany, know the identity and whereabouts of who made and placed the bomb.

An unnamed Frankfurt police spokesman quoted by the British domestic news agency Press Association said he knew nothing of any suspect being held and the Scottish office, the government department responsible for Scot-

land, in a statement described the Today report as "pure speculation."

The transport department said it issued two warnings of a bomb plot in the month before Flight 103 was destroyed but U.S.-based Pan Am said Thursday that the second one came weeks later, by mail.

Transport Secretary Paul Channon insisted Thursday that the second warning, made two days before the bombing, was "of no importance" because the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration already had been alerted.

FMLN steps up campaign to disrupt El Salvador poll

SAN SALVADOR (AP) — A rebel campaign to disrupt Sunday's presidential election continued Friday with power blackouts, a traffic stoppage and threats against election workers.

The armed forces said the ban halted 90 per cent of the nation's highway traffic, and officials said at least 60 per cent of electrical power was out.

Campaigning was officially over and guerrilla violence was down, but an official said he expected more violence before the vote.

"We are going to hear some bombs, and we are going to see sabotage and they will make us a bit nervous," defence minister General Eugenio Vides Casanova said in a televised interview Thursday.

Most of the capital was without power and many areas had no water. Making a telephone call could be an all-day affair. Heavy, three-pronged metal tacks were scattered on streets to puncture tires.

Guerrillas from the Farabundo

Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) made sporadic hit-and-run attacks in several provinces. An explosive went off in a jeep in a poor neighbourhood of San Salvador, injuring a small child.

The leftist FMLN renewed its threat against election workers and claimed in a clandestine broadcast that "uncertainty continues over whether there will be elections" Sunday.

FMLN officials interviewed in Mexico City said Thursday that they hoped to discredit the election, leaving negotiations over their proposal to participate in the political process as the only viable alternative.

The three main contenders in the election are Alfredo Cristiani, 41, of the rightist Republican Nationalist Alliance, or ARENA, Fidel Chavez Mena of the incumbent Christian Democrats, and Guillermo Ungo of the leftist Democratic Convergence Alliance.

All called Thursday for Salvadorans to defy the FMLN boycott

and vote.

The government and the military have assured Salvadorans they will be protected when they go to the polls.

Traffic bans have become standard features of elections in El Salvador, where the FMLN has called for boycotts of every election since 1982.

The rebels argue that only profound social and economic change will resolve the problems of this nation of more than five million — not a change in administrations.

The turnout for the 1984 presidential election was about 75 per cent. Nearly 1.8 million people are registered to vote Sunday.

Unless they give one of the candidates more than 50 per cent of the vote, there will be a runoff between the top two contenders.

The FMLN called the election boycott and traffic ban after the government refused its offer to take an indirect role in the election and respect its outcome if certain conditions were met.



ANTI-STRESS — The latest rage on the French Riviera is these "anti-stress" glasses which display changing colours and play soothing music through the headset.

Sweden uncovers bugging conspiracy

STOCKHOLM (R) — The Swedish government said Friday it had uncovered a plot to bug the country's deputy foreign minister in connection with the hunt for the murderer of Prime Minister Olof Palme.

Public Administration Minister Bengt Johansson said Deputy Foreign Minister Pierre Schori was the intended surveillance target of a secret inquiry last year into the Palme murder.

The covert operation collapsed when an investigator was caught trying to smuggle illegal eavesdropping equipment into Sweden. Justice Minister Anna-Greta Leijon, who authorised the probe, resigned.

"This is damnable. It is absolutely terrible that things should have come to this," said Schori.

Johansson said Schori appeared to have been part of the Palme investigation because he once met a Kurdish woman who later became a suspect in the 1986 assassination.

"I have gone through material provided to me by the government prosecutor and can say that all allegations linking Pierre Schori to terrorism are false,"

Johansson told reporters. Schori was one of Palme's closest aides and in considered a key figure in Swedish foreign policy relating to Third World questions and one of his country's foremost diplomats.

The allegation on Schori's intended bugging was the latest in a series that has shocked the Swedish political establishment in recent weeks and deepened a rift between the ruling Social Democrats and the Swedish secret police service known as SAPO.

Last weekend, Foreign Minister Sten Andersson said he had been a victim of electronic eavesdropping in the 1970s when he was Social Democratic general secretary.

Palme was killed by a lone gunman Feb. 28, 1986, while walking home from the cinema. Investigators were initially convinced that he was victim of a political conspiracy and concentrated their inquiries on left-wing Kurdish immigrants to Sweden. But the Kurdish theory later fell apart and police are currently holding a 41-year-old Swede with a long criminal record as suspected murderer.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Mozambique famine kills 5,000

MAPUTO (R) — Famine caused by war and drought has killed 5,000 people in northern Mozambique since January, the official Mozambican News Agency AIM said Thursday. Catholic missionaries last month reported 3,591 famine-related deaths in Memba district's Nampula province between Jan. 5 and Feb. 17. On Tuesday they told the government the death toll had since risen to nearly 5,000, AIM said. State-run Nampula Radio said 75 per cent of Memba's 184,000 people were facing acute food shortages and needed emergency aid. The government is sending 60 tonnes of relief food to Memba a day, AIM said.

Youth curfew in U.S. capital

WASHINGTON (R) — The mayor of Washington grudgingly announced Wednesday he will allow an emergency, police-enforced curfew for youth to take effect as part of the U.S. capital's war against drugs and murder. Mayor Marion Barry told reporters he would have preferred a more liberal curfew law than the one approved by the city council to keep people under 18 years old off the streets after 11 p.m. on weekdays and after midnight on weekends. Those caught would be detained in police stations until parents or guardians could pick them up. Police have opposed the curfew as unenforceable. But the council approved it as a way to fight a drug epidemic and murder wave which resulted in a record 372 murders — most of them drug-related in 1988 and 107 already this year.

World is wetter, but not everywhere

WASHINGTON (AP) — Land areas of the planet have gotten wetter over the last century or so, but the rainfall increases have overlooked some large areas, a new study discloses. South Africa and Australia have received measurable increases in precipitation since the late 1800s, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported. But there has been a decline in Africa and in tropical areas of the Northern Hemisphere, the agency said. The analysis of rainfall patterns was compiled by NOAA's Henry F. Diaz, R.S. Bradley of the University of Massachusetts and Jon Eischeid of the University of Colorado. Their findings are to be published in an upcoming issue of the Journal of Geophysical Research. While the scientists looked at nearly a century of records, Diaz said that the primary period of increasing rainfall occurred from the 1940s to the mid-1950s and seems to have levelled off since then.

Rebels kill 5 Sri Lankan officers

COLOMBO (R) — Left-wing rebels killed five policemen in attacks Wednesday and Thursday, military sources said. They said two rebels were killed and six policemen wounded in the clashes. Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told reporters the attacks appeared an attempt to distract security forces who are conducting an offensive against the rebels. Wijeratne declined to name the rebels but police blamed the attacks on the People's Liberation Front. Three policemen and two rebels were killed when the guerrillas stormed a police station at Mutugama, 45 kilometres south of Colombo, shortly after noon Thursday, the sources said.

Pakistan bomb hits U.K. library

PESHAWAR (R) — A British library was damaged by a bomb in the northwest Pakistani city of Peshawar Wednesday. The blast damaged the roof and shattered windows but caused no casualties as the building was closed at the time. The library belonged to the British Council, a semi-official organisation which promotes British culture and the teaching of English abroad.

COLUMN

'Let us cheat or else'

DHAKA (R) — Students enraged at attempts to stop them cheating attacked police and teachers with homemade bombs, knives and rocks at the start of month-long secondary school examinations in Bangladesh, police said Friday. Police said nearly 100 people were injured during the disturbance Thursday and more than 2,500 students were expelled. Police opened fire to disperse crowds at Baidyehazar, 60 kilometres from Dhaka, after students, their friends and relatives rampaged through examination halls. Elsewhere, police used teargas and truncheons to restore order after students chased teachers and tore up examination papers. Some police were also injured. They said at many places outside the capital students protested against tight monitoring by teachers and demanded their friends be allowed to send in help. To try to prevent trouble, authorities earlier banned assemblies of more than four people near examination centres. During certificate examinations last year, students chanted "we seek the right to copy" and "expel unsympathetic invigilators."

Mosquitoes delay Indian plane

NEW DELHI (AP) — Swarms of mosquitoes invaded the cockpit of an Indian Airlines plane at Calcutta airport and delayed the flight for two hours, news reports say. The pilot of the Boeing 737 made the discovery when he climbed into the cockpit shortly before departure Monday, according to United News of India (UNI) and Press Trust of India (PTI). Airport authorities arranged to have the cockpit cleared, and the plane took off for the eastern city of Dibrugarh, 805 kilometres northeast of Calcutta.

Inmate steals cars to go to funeral

WAUKESHA, Wisconsin (AP) — An inmate given a three-day pass from jail to attend a funeral stole two cars in getting there and back, authorities said, Daniel H. Browning, 32, left the second car parked across the street from the Waukesha County courthouse, authorities said. He was charged Tuesday with two counts of driving a car without owner consent. Court papers said Browning, who was in jail for burglary, stole a car but abandoned it at a motor hotel because it ran poorly, then stole another and drove it to his sister's funeral in October.

Rabbit ban lifted for Easter

ROTHSCHILD, Wisconsin (AP) — Getting into the Easter spirit, the village board has lifted a ban against rabbits. Since the 1960s, an ordinance had prohibited everyone except slaughterhouses and meatpacking plants from keeping rabbits and some other kinds of animals. But after the ordinance was criticised by residents who had been secretly raising rabbits, the board voted Monday night to take rabbits off the list of undesirable animals. Like dogs and cats, rabbits will have to be licensed and will be limited to two per household. Village President Daniel Gorski, who said he is not an animal hater, voted against the proposal, saying: "We had people with rabbits behind my house, and they had unsightly hutches." But trustee Jack Olson, who voted for the measure, joked: "We have to (allow rabbits) because Easter is coming." According to tradition, the Easter bunny brings treats to children for the holiday.

Cher's boyfriend sentence delayed

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sentencing for Rob Camilletti, boyfriend of actress-singer Cher, was postponed because of a dispute over where he should perform community service for smashing a photographer's camera. Judge Ronald Schoenberg indicated he will order Camilletti, 24, to pay \$1,050 in fines, make restitution, do 300 hours of community service and serve 24 months probation, said prosecutor's office spokesman Mike Qualls. Schoenberg reset sentencing for April 4 after meeting Tuesday with deputy city attorney Renee Laurents and defence lawyer Jobo Forbes. Laurents said the defence wants Camilletti to perform community service in New York, where he lives. Camilletti pleaded no contest Feb. 28 to two counts of vandalism. He was accused of trying to use his Ferrari to run down free-lance photographer Peter Brandt and smashing Brandt's camera outside Cher's home last July.

Sorcery a booming business in Italy

By Paul Holmes
Reuters

NAPLES, Italy — Sorcerer Gennaro Brianti had spent a busy night at the graveyard. "Excuse me but I have been up all night at the cemetery," said Brianti, yawning and rubbing his eyes to stay awake during an interview at his office in Naples.

"You can work better there. It's quiet and it's fertile ground... and then there are certain things that can only be done in a cemetery."

Brianti is in a business with no lack of customers in Italy, where aged-old beliefs in spells, curses and witchcraft mingle with modern industrial life and Roman Catholicism.

A report by the social research institute ISPES entitled "devil's money or the market in the occult" estimates Italy has 18,000 magicians and fortune-tellers earning the equivalent of \$1 billion a year catering to the superstitious.

"People come to us when they have lost hope in all other solutions. We are their last resort," said Brianti, who claimed a clientele that ranged

from simple country folk to "important members of parliament at government level."

"They may come because business is bad or their crops won't grow because someone has put a curse on them or just to find out what the future holds," he said.

Brianti was evasive about exactly what work he had been doing at the cemetery. "I went there. I performed rituals, I put certain things right, and then I came back," he said.

His waiting room on the morning of a recent visit held about half a dozen people seeking his services as a soothsayer, exorcist and lifer of assorted evil spells.

They included a woman Brianti said had been cursed to stay a spinster and a man whose pizza restaurant in Venice had lost money because someone had put the "evil eye" on him. "I send the curses back to those who ordered them," Brianti said.

The tools of his trade are few "magnetised water, salt, red and white candles, a magic dagger and courage, a great deal of courage."

Brianti charges 50,000 lire

(\$40) for a basic consultation, though ISPES said the final cost of hiring a magician could be as high as 20 million lire (\$15,000) for exorcising a "dead curse."

"Popular pre-industrial, rural magic has been replaced by a hybrid form of industrialised occult," the ISPES report said, noting that the modern magician surrounded himself with an aura of professionalism.

Brianti, 52, typifies the modern Italian magician. He wears a smart jacket and tie and a sign in the street outside his office advertises the services of "knight Commander G. Brianti, operator of the occult."

The walls of his well-appointed office are plastered with framed cuttings of popular Italian newspaper reports about his cases, photographs of television appearances and dozens of certificates from magicians' guilds and conventions.

"You have seen my diploma from Pope John Paul," said Brianti, referring to a framed "personal Papal blessing" of the type tourists can buy at souvenir shops around the Vatican.

Brianti claims an association with the supernatural that goes back to the night of his birth, when he said three women dressed in black came looking for him.

At the age of five during World War II, he said, he was predicting air raids on Naples 10 minutes before the sirens sounded and he has been operating in the occult full-time for more than 20 years.

He is inspector general of the "European register of professional operators of the occult," one of several guilds in Italy, says he pays his taxes and wants parliament to regulate his trade by law.

"That would give more security to the people who need us. They would know they were getting a serious, professional service," Brianti said.

"There's an enormous number of pseudo-magicians, faith healers and fortune-tellers, most of them charlatans who dabble in the business without knowing anything about it." Some Roman Catholic priests are authorised to act as exorcists, but the church

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